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Jerry Clower tells DOMs: "I didn't know you could be a Baptist and not believe the Bible"

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 — Declaring himself a "free moral agent under God," comedian Jerry Clower told associational directors of missions June 10 he's sick of negativism and power politics in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I love y'all 'cause you ain't no pessimists," the Grand Ole Opry star told about 500 people attending the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie.

Clower used humor to address issues in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight. He said he decided to speak about the Southern Baptist controversy even though he had refused to comment on national scandals that have plagued prominent television evangelists in recent years.

He recalled being approached by a television reporter with questions about the fall of televangelist Jim Bakker. "I ain't got a dog in that fight," Clower told the reporter as he declined to be interviewed.

However, when it comes to the SBC, "I've got a dog in that fight," said Clower, who has been a Southern Baptist for 50 years.

"I love y'all," Clower told the directors of missions. "Not just anyone can say that. I can because I've paid my

dues."

He related how he was saved through a home mission project and has participated in all phases of church life since then. "I made the motion to hire the associational missionary," he quipped. "I'm on your side."

Clower said people sometimes ask him what he believes about the Bible, as a way to find out where his political loyalties lie. "I didn't know you could be a Baptist and not believe the Bible," he retorted.

Although not calling names, Clower implied that some of the denomination's more conservative leadership have chastised him for making fun of the inerrancy issue. He said he has "done been called to Dallas" to explain comments he made in the past.

Clower said he refuses to get involved in writing letters back and forth and prefers to meet in person to clarify such issues. "And they always want to tape it," he said.

"But that doesn't bother me because I tell the truth. If you always tell the truth you don't have to worry about what you say."

Clower said he believes the issue of inerrancy was created as something to argue about. "Somebody thought up the word inerrant, and that's what

we're arguing about now."

He declared that he was taught to revere the Bible from the time he enrolled in BYPU and still reads the Bible regularly. "That's why I'm a Baptist," he asserted.

However, the Bible is not the greatest thing in his Christian experience, he said.

"Watch my lips: I do not worship the Bible," Clower declared. "I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ when I was 13 years of age. I am in love with and worship Jesus."

"Let's don't take our focus off Jesus," he urged. "Folks are going to die and go to hell while we decide who believes the Bible."

Clower said the SBC controversy is not about the Bible. "This isn't about Scripture. It's about power."

He described reading about events at Southern Baptist agencies and the SBC Executive Committee that upset him. "The devil's got us doing something that's not important," he said. "Negativism can destroy our convention."

Clower said television evangelists got in trouble because they lacked accountability for their money and ministries. The same should not be true for Southern Baptists, he said.

However, he lamented the lack of

support recent elected leadership has shown for the Cooperative Program. "I ain't voting for nobody to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention who don't support the Cooperative Program," he said.

Clower said his church gives 30 percent of its income to the denomination's unified giving plan for missions and theological education.

"If you want to be president of our convention, don't be no independent Baptist," Clower shouted.

Clower also addressed critics of the denomination's seminaries. His place on the program followed a message by Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary.

"Don't let anyone hurt him," Clower said of Leavell. He urged the crowd to keep Leavell from being criticized by trustees in the same way Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was recently criticized by a first-term trustee.

The 25-year-old trustee, Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo., accused the 63-year-old Honeycutt of not believing the Bible.

"That's the most unchristian thing I ever heard said from another Christian in all my life," Clower said. "You don't put your finger in nobody's face

and say that.

"We need to find out who put that fellow in a position where he could make such an accusation and treat someone like a dog."

Clower quipped that if Johnson were so smart, "we need to put him in charge of everything."

"How can you look into the face of a seminary president and say, 'You don't believe the Bible?'"

"We ain't going to let nobody do our preacher that way at the East Fork Church," Clower said. "We're autonomous."

He said autonomy means his church has a "trash can doctrine."

"Make any kind of resolution you want to this week. We'll take it back, look it over, and if we don't want to do it, we'll trash it."

He poked fun at pastors who rule their churches with absolute authority. "Don't be sending me word about what I've got to understand from the Holy Spirit," he said, explaining that in Baptist polity "the preacher ain't got no more vote than my 19-year-old daughter."

"Don't send me word out of your study that we're going to move the church if we ain't discussed it and voted on it," he said. "One pope in Rome is enough."

Charleston police chief returns to town as pastor of First Church

In April of this year, Tommy Clark faced a decision about whether or not to become pastor of First Church, Charleston, a small town at the eastern edge of the Delta. Eleven years before, he had faced another decision — whether or not to move to Charleston as chief of the city's police. For him, events have moved full circle.

This story began in 1979, when Clark, a Jackson police officer, was offered the job as chief of police in Charleston. To him, he recalls, the step from officer to chief seemed big and full of questions and apprehensions. However, he as a young Christian had taken the text, John 15:5, for living — "Apart from me you can do nothing." He and his wife, Marilyn, and their two boys moved to north Mississippi.

While he was police chief, he and his family were active in Friendship Church, Charleston. Then, in October of 1979, he was licensed to preach. Again, he recalls, Jesus' words in John 15:5 spurred him on. He said it was a real source of strength to him that his wife did not discourage him,

though she was reluctant to give him much encouragement yet, for she didn't want her husband to be a "wife-called preacher."

Previously Marilyn had told him how that as a young girl at Calvary Church, Greenwood, she had publicly committed her life to be a missionary. She had thought she might marry a pastor or missionary. However, when she married a policeman, she said, she felt she was in God's will, though she had no idea God would call her husband into the ministry.

Since the 28-year-old police chief's higher education had been in police work, at Hinds Junior College and the Police Academy, he felt a need for further study, to prepare himself for answering God's call. Therefore, he and his family in January, 1980, moved to Memphis, where he studied at Mid-South Bible College and was graduated in 1984 from Mid-America Seminary, with the equivalent of a master's degree in theology. During that time, another son and daughter were added to the family.

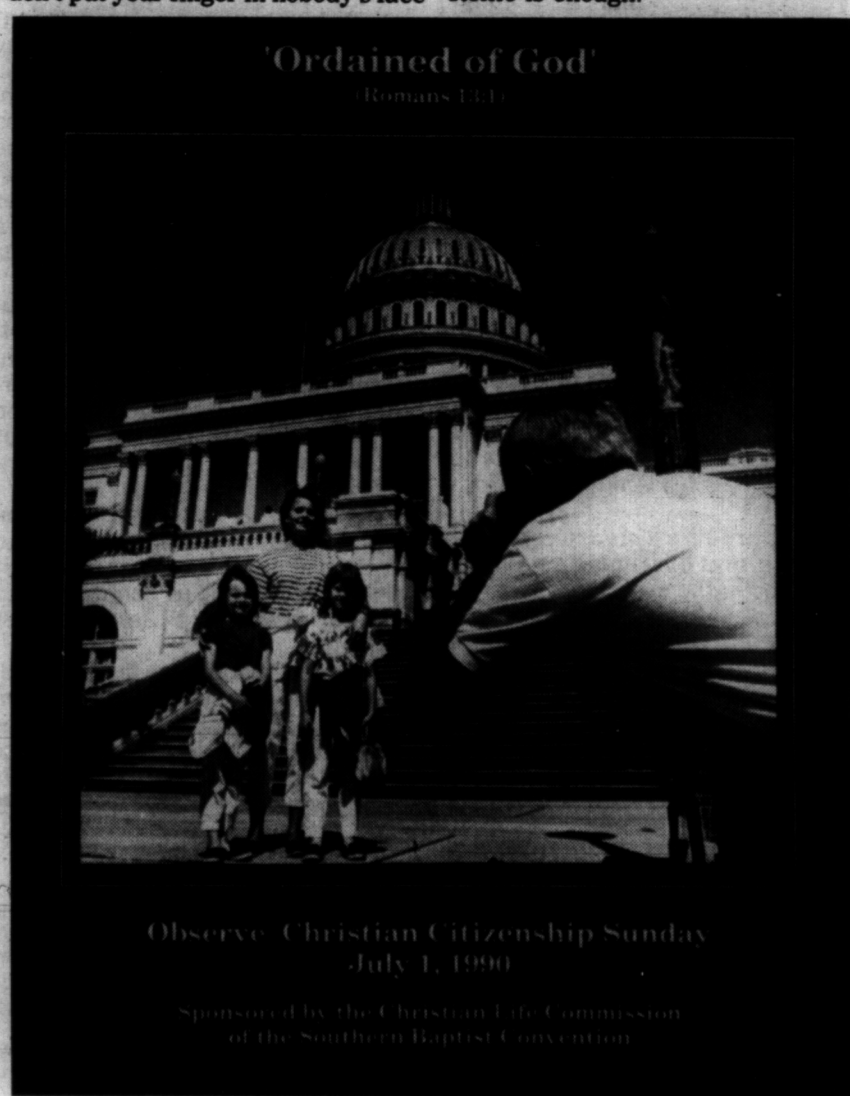
Ordained in Memphis, he served as pastor at Charjean Church, then returned to Mississippi as pastor at North Carrollton Church, where 95 new members were received for baptism during his 4½-year tenure. And another child was born to the Clarks.

When this year on May 24, the Clark family again moved to Charleston, Tommy retained John 15:5 as his text for living.

As for the future, he said, "I plan to spend a year or so getting to know the people and their needs. My basic program will be to be a friend and neighbor in the Name of Christ . . ."

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Houston Clark of Jackson. His wife is the daughter of Mayor and Mrs. Louis Fancher of Greenwood.

Two blocks from the city hall where he once served as chief of police, his name is now posted as pastor of First Church. Still serving the people of Charleston, he now is servant of the Chief Shepherd. As someone said, "God just took a decade to get Tommy Clark ready to do what he really wanted him to do in Charleston."



Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Two sizeable camps

Representatives of churches are beginning to call to declare their churches' intentions of rearranging their giving patterns to accommodate the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Southern Baptist funding through the Cooperative Program for the Baptist Joint Committee was decreased by \$341,000 to \$50,000 during the recent Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. Prior to the convention it was mentioned that if such were to happen, it could well be the worst mistake that the Southern Baptist Convention had ever made. That prediction could prove to be true.

Southern Baptists at the convention were not unified on the funding arrangement by any means. A motion to amend the budget to restore the funding for the Baptist Joint Committee failed by a vote of 17,915 to 13,608.

Some messengers, as they were leaving the convention, made such statements as "We have no voice here. We will have to go home and vote with our pocketbooks."

The prediction concerning a mistake was made because of the obvious loss of influence that would be felt in Washington because of altered arrangements with the Baptist Joint Committee. The financial situation was not even a factor in the statement. If the situation were to cause a restructuring of the cooperative giving of numbers of churches across the nation, however, the damage could be much worse than had been imagined.

The Cooperative Program is a concept of delicate balance that requires the trust and commitment of those who support it. There is no requirement that it has to be supported. The SBC constitution does not require it. All that is required is "friendly cooperation." Messenger numbers for churches may be based on either the amount of money going to causes through the Cooperative Program or the number of members of the churches.

The Cooperative Program is the concept that has made Southern Baptist missions efforts and many other endeavors strong and effective. Should that delicate balance get out of kilter, the result could be devastating to missions and other programs.

Before the advent of the Cooperative Program in 1925, the Southern Baptist entities that had the best fund raisers got the most money. Fundamentalists are talking of returning to our roots. Let us pray that we are not returning to those roots and chaotic financing that we had prior to 1925.

Other pre-1925 roots are coming into view also at this time. First Church, Fort Worth, the church where Frank Norris was pastor when the local association withdrew fellowship in 1922, is planning to petition the association for readmission. The church notes that it has not strayed from its Norrisite moorings but that the convention now has moved closer

to its position so that the church could feel comfortable within the Southern Baptist fellowship. The Baptist General Convention of Texas "permanently excluded" Norris in 1924.

The move "back to our roots" was structured 20 years ago in a meeting between Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler in the Cafe du Monde in New Orleans. That anniversary was observed during the convention in New Orleans as Barry McCarty, the Church of Christ preacher who was the convention parliamentarian, called the late-night diners to order so that a presentation of plaques could be made to Patterson and Pressler.

His participation in the event would seem to threaten a compromise of McCarty's position as parliamentarian, as it should be a position of non-partisanship. There were moderates who claimed he was not non-partisan in some of his rulings, and several questioned the \$15,000 fee he was paid.

Actually, the fundamentalist movement was said to have begun earlier, according to Texas Monthly magazine. Several years ago that publication told of a meeting in the middle 60s between W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, and Pressler that got the movement under way.

Moderates had their turn at trying to discredit a convention official as they questioned the work of Roland Lopez, pastor of an ethnic church in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, as chairman of the convention's committee on nominations. There were moderates who claimed that his church was not a Southern Baptist congregation by virtue of not having given through the Cooperative Program for the past year. The Baptist Record checked with the director of missions for the association, however, and learned that the charges could not be considered factual. The church at one time was the strongest of ethnic churches in the association and was very much a Southern Baptist congregation. Its pastor, however, moved to the Corpus Christi area; and the church fell on hard times. The following pastor left abruptly; and Lopez went there four months ago from a pastorate in Lubbock, serving the four months without pay.

The church did send a \$300 contribution to the Cooperative Program; but, through confusion, it was credited to the preceding year. So the past reporting year saw no contributions. The church, evidently, was not aware of the possibility of filling out a Uniform Church letter.

Therefore, it appeared that the church was not cooperating. The director of missions, however, said it was all the result of confusion and lack of leadership before Lopez arrived.

And most readers are familiar with the episode surrounding David Montoya, who also was a member of the committee on nominations. Though he was on the committee because of his

perceived fundamentalist leanings, he called attention to what he thought were unethical practices of the fundamentalist leadership of the committee. Subsequent printed material concerning Montoya's background, however, was found not to correspond to official records obtained from Dallas County in Texas.

So we wound up another convention with convention-goers split into two sizeable camps. Each looked for opportunities to call attention to problems within the camp of the other; and, in some cases at least, the charges by both sides were without foundation.

It has been said for years that we could not go on in this fashion, but we have continued. This year, however, one side left dispirited and dejected. What will be the result of that remains to be seen. Also, what will happen remains to be seen if the victors find they have no one to battle and turn their guns upon themselves because of obvious differences and little tolerance.

In the meantime we try to carry out our mission in a highly charged atmosphere. Denominational agency heads literally do not know what board meeting will end their tenures.

Our positions are not far apart. There is overlapping of theological positions because there are only shades of differences. The fundamentals of our beliefs are just about universally held by all.

One night following the session of the convention I was eating in a French Quarter cafe, and a man came off the street to sit beside me. He found that I was there for the convention and identified himself as a Southern Baptist in town on business. He mentioned that he was a graduate of Southern Seminary but was disenchanted with the school. Wanting to find out all that I could, I mentioned that there were some who had questions about some professors there. He replied that he had no problems with professors. He was upset because the administration would not let him change from a music degree to a theological degree. Then he admitted that the real problem was with himself and not with the administration.

Only about 40,000 of the almost 15 million Southern Baptists are involved in controversy. The rest don't understand it. The theological differences among those involved are minute. The real differences are not theological. To some degree they are philosophical. Mostly they are personal.

Those personal differences are not going to go away. We must learn to cooperate in spite of those differences.

One cannot help but wonder if the damage to faith perceived to have been done by a few seminary professors in any wise begins to measure up to damage to faith caused by the controversy that has raged for 11 years.



Senators stand again

Twenty-three of the 27 senators who had opposed a lottery during the regular session of the Legislature stood firm during the special session last week, and the lottery concept died again.

The gratitude of Mississippi Baptists is due those 27 and particularly the 23 who finally staved off the lottery for this year in spite of tremendous pressure.

Again, the Clarion-Ledger, the Jackson daily newspaper, has completely missed the point concerning constitutional changes, and is calling on Mississippians to remember the vote on the lottery when election time comes.

The Baptist Record makes the same request. Those 23 deserve the vote of their constituents. They proved that they can withstand pressure and think for themselves. They proved that they can stand firm to represent their districts despite pressure from their colleagues.

The lottery concept passed in the House by a two-vote margin, which was a closer vote than before. It failed in the Senate by a vote of 28 in favor and 23 opposed. It would have taken 34 favorable votes to pass the measure, which would have placed the lottery issue on the November ballot.

Yes, as the Clarion-Ledger requested, remember those 23. They are Irb Benjamin, Rienzi; Barbara Blanton, Brandon; Buddy Bond, Carthage; Hob Bryan, Amory; Jack Gordon, Okolona; Pud Graham, New Albany; George Gueirieri, Southaven; Bill Harpole, Starkville; Billy Harvey, Prentiss; Alan Heflin, Forest; John Keeton, Grenada; Hannon Miller, Greenville; Cecil Mills, Clara; John J. Morgan, Ox-

ford; Ronnie Musgrove, Bateville; Bill Renick, Ashland; Cy Rosenblatt, Jackson; Vincent Scoper, Laurel; Rob Smith, Richland; Wootsie Tate, Picayune; Billy Thames, Mize; Richard White, Terry; and Roger Wicker, Tupelo.

Those folks are heroes. It would have been easier to have voted the other way, yet they could not because they believed it was wrong.

The Clarion-Ledger continued to call for letting the people vote. That, however, is not the way the constitution has established for amending itself. It takes two-thirds vote by both houses to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot. The Legislature, not the Clarion-Ledger, is charged with determining when a constitutional provision should be questioned by the voters.

Every constitutional provision cannot be placed on the November ballot for the people's vote. The Legislature must decide which ones, if any.

This year they have decided, and that is the way it must be.

The members of the House who voted against the lottery concept were as follows: D. R. Anderson, Ellisville; Billy Bowles, Houston; E. C. Clark, Taylorsville; Dorothy Cole, Richton; Raymond Comans, Decatur; Roy Dabbs, Meridian; Ted Foster, Pontotoc; Hillman Frazier, Jackson; Delma Furniss, Rena Lara; Don Grist, Vardaman; David Hallbrook, Belzoni; Bruce Hanson, Columbus; Steve Holland, Plantersville; Curtis Holston, Poplarville; Tommy Horne, Meridian; Ezell Lee, Picayune; Dick Livingston, Pulaski; Billy McCoy, Rienzi; Joe McElwain, Ripley; Butch McMillan, Kosciusko; Michael Mills, Aberdeen; Bobby Moody, Louisville; (Continued on page 9)

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Southern Baptists alter relationship with BJCPA

By Robert O'Brien

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention completed a series of votes June 13 to alter the SBC's historic relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

By a show of hands, messengers adopted a Cooperative Program unified budget recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee that includes an 87.2 percent cut of the BJCPA's budget. The action decreases the BJCPA's 1990-91 budget from \$391,596 to \$50,000.

Before this action, the BJCPA had survived five attempts in six years to either defund it or to alter the method by which its funding was provided.

The previous day, messengers voted 17,915 to 13,608 to defeat an amendment that would have restored the then-proposed cut.

The amendment, by messenger Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., called for the BJCPA, the SBC Christian Life Commission and the SBC Public Affairs Committee to receive 1.89 percent increases in line with in-

creases for other SBC entities in the \$137.3 million Cooperative Program budget proposal.

Besides slashing the BJCPA budget, the CP budget proposal, as finally passed, increases the CLC budget by 40.7 percent to \$1,262,836 and the PAC budget by 5.47 percent to \$25,000.

The CLC increase was granted after messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to add a religious liberty function to the CLC, the convention's moral concerns agency.

That action passed by a show of hands after messengers defeated, 14,789 to 12,626, another motion by Ingraham to strike the committee's recommendation. Ingraham is an attorney and former member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Historically, the BJCPA, a First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists. The BJCPA, made up of nine Baptist denominations, has had a 53-year relationship with the

SBC through the 18-member PAC.

The BJCPA has been a center of controversy in the SBC's 11-year-old political/theological debate on such matters as school prayer and the relationship of religious liberty to moral and social concerns.

In a news conference, James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

In a related action, messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to delete the PAC's program statement.

That action does not end the PAC, which will continue to function under a set of guidelines drawn up by the Executive Committee. The committee recommended deletion of the program statement because only SBC agencies have program statements.

Robert O'Brien is on the staff of FMB.



Causey receives Scouting award

Eagle Scout Bill Causey receives the Good Shepherd Cross and Staff from James E. "Johnny" Johnson, national chairman of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, received the award for his encouragement to youths and contributions to Scouting. Causey was nominated by fellow Eagle Scout, Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission. To Causey's right is Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, who also received the award. On the podium is Gen. Erle Cocke, Jr. The awards were presented at a breakfast during the SBC in New Orleans.

Foreign Board appoints former Mississippians

RICHMOND, Va. — Mr. and Mrs. David E. Shofner were among 34 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 13 in the Superdome in New Orleans, La.

As missionary associates the Shofners will live in Honduras, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1969 he has been pastor of West Pensacola Church in Pensacola, Fla.

Born in Tuscumbia, Ala., Shofner is the son of the late James E. and Elizabeth Shofner. While growing up he also lived in Mobile, Ala. He considers Pensacola his hometown and West Pensacola Baptist his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and the bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He also attended William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

He has been pastor of Central Church in Yazoo, Miss.; Bellville Church in Evergreen, Ala.; Cedar Hill Church in Brewton, Ala.; and Circle Church in Pensacola.

Born in Garland, Ala., Mrs. Shofner, the former Myra Sims, is the daughter of the late Milton M. and Tommie Sims. While growing up, she also lived in Mobile. She considers Pensacola her hometown and West Pensacola Church her home church.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College and the master of arts degree from the University of West Florida in Pensacola. She also attended William Carey College, and has been a teacher in Pensacola.

The Shofners, who have four grown children, will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

**There will be no
BAPTIST RECORD issue
of July 5, 1990.**

(Our postal agreement specifies that the BAPTIST RECORD publish 50 issues a year. Weeks of July 4 holidays and Christmas are omitted).

Mam Indians dedicate chapel

TONINCHUN, Guatemala — The first Baptist chapel among the Mam Indians in Guatemala was recently dedicated in Toninchun. During the three-day celebration, 12 new Christians were baptized. Veteran Southern Baptist missionaries Wendall and Jane Parker and first-term missionaries Keith and Penny Stamps, Mississippians, have been working with the Mam in the villages of Toninchun and Tajumulco for three years.

WMU to coordinate mission housing

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Housing arrangements for Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the United States will be transferred from the Foreign Mission Board to the Woman's Missionary Union Sept. 1.

The change resulted from an arrangement between the board and the WMU that this function was one the WMU is ideally positioned to handle.

"Women of the WMUs have long been involved in the provision of housing, and often they are the ones who are responsible for the equipping of the houses and receiving the missionaries upon arrival," explained Kistie Patch, the board's missionary housing coordinator.

The board has maintained a list of missionary housing sponsors from throughout the Southern Baptist Con-

vention, Patch said. "We serve as a resource to the missionaries and to those who wish to provide housing for missionaries. We work to get these two groups of people together," she said. In addition to furlough periods, housing is made available to missionaries during medical emergencies, when they have problems obtaining resident visas overseas or at other times.

Patch makes the lists available to missionaries, who contact sponsors directly to secure the housing.

Effective Sept. 1, Barbara Yeager at WMU will be the new housing coordinator. She can be contacted at WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010. Her phone number is 205-991-4021.

This responsibility will blend well with WMU's function of missions education, said Yeager. "We thought it would be a perfect avenue to further our own ministry here at WMU," she said.

The Foreign Mission Board has coordinated U.S. housing for missionaries since the early 1970s. Earlier, Southern Baptist sponsors and missionaries handled arrangements themselves.

Southern Baptist sponsors offering housing include individuals, local churches, church associations and state Baptist conventions. About 350 sponsors are registered with the board. Other Southern Baptists also make housing available on their own to missionaries.

"Do right thing at right time" — Parks

By Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time, the president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board said June 13.

"This is the right time, and we must not do wrong at the time God has called right," Keith Parks told messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Parks was the keynote speaker in the board's annual report to the convention, which featured the appointment

of 34 missionaries.

Southern Baptists face open doors, Parks reported. "There are great unreached people groups waiting. We have set our commitment to reach 300 of them; we now have people assigned to 19.

"There are 47 other groups approved that represent a population of 260 million people — the equivalent of the United States population — with virtually no witness....

(Continued on page 10)

Forum names First, Jackson "Church of the Year"

By Art Toalston
NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The theme of the Southern Baptist Convention Forum, "Recapturing the Future," became one of recalling frustrations during the six sermons that headlined the meeting June 11 in New Orleans.

Attendance stretched beyond 2,000 for afternoon addresses by Randall Lolley and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler. Lolley, pastor of First Church of Greensboro, N.C., was the target of SBC conservatives before his resignation as president of Southeastern Seminary in 1988. Crumpler, retired executive director of the denomination's Woman's Missionary Union and wife of a Cincinnati Baptist pastor, was a candidate for first vice president of the convention in behalf of SBC moderates.

David Montoya, a Gravette, Ark., pastor who broke ranks with conservatives last year, also addressed the meeting of SBC moderates.

Montoya announced his intention to challenge some 30 nominations to SBC entities.

He urged the forum audience to

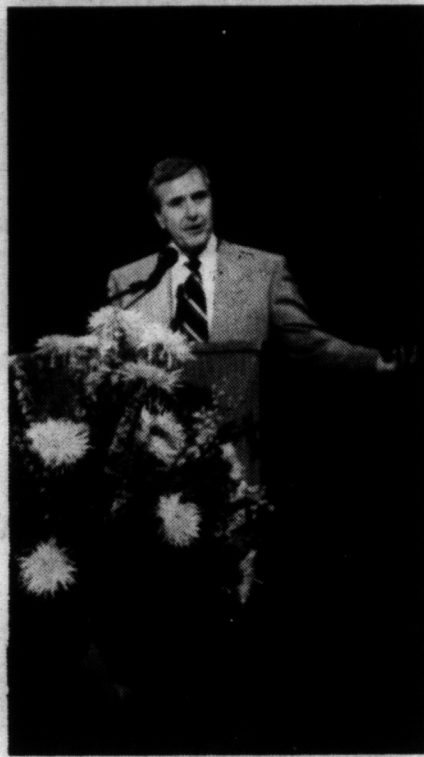
pray for "other misguided zealots like myself."

Lolley likened leaders of the conservative faction controlling the SBC to cowboys. "They rule from their saddles," he said. "Never expect a cowboy to do a shepherd's job. Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd.' Shepherds lead sheep and die for them if they have to."

Crumpler warned that Southern Baptists are losing their credibility because of their longstanding controversy. The effort that Southern Baptists are putting into debating the Bible should be redirected toward "hiding it in our hearts," she said, "and following its commands."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church in Jackson, Miss., echoed Crumpler's sentiments. News accounts focusing on Southern Baptists before the onset of the controversy in 1979 "reflected in one way or another 'these people are fools for Christ's sake,'" Pollard said. "Now media reports declare us only to be fools who have lost our purpose and turned on each other."

Once the denomination was grow-



Frank Pollard

ing by 200,000 people a year, Pollard said. "Now we're almost losing more people than we're gaining." And, he recounted, a key convention rally in 1979 in the Houston Astrodome to boost the denomination's "Bold Mission Thrust" goal of sharing the gospel worldwide by the year 2000 was undercut "before 24 hours had elapsed" by the start of the controversy.

Other speakers during the forum were Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.; John Killinger, distinguished professor of religion and culture at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Garrison reminded that Christ calls his followers "not necessarily to win but to be faithful. Not every battle is Armageddon." Through their faithfulness, he said, moderates someday may see the convention return to peace.

Killinger observed that Baptists have faltered by "trying to use Christ instead of falling down and worshipping him. That's where all the pro-

blems in the SBC are coming from — people who don't know what Christianity is all about . . . people forgetting that Jesus is Lord."

Reynolds, focusing on the "historical and psychological context" of the denomination's "fundamentalists," charged that they have used "The Big Lie" as part of a mass movement strategy to take control of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Voted onto the forum's nine-member steering committee were Jan Aldredge Clanton, chaplain at Hillcrest Baptist Hospital in Waco, Texas; John Hewett, pastor of First Church in Asheville, N.C.; and Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and a longtime foe of the conservative movement, was named the forum's "Prophet of the Year." First Church of Jackson, Miss., received the forum's "Church of the Year Award." The church was cited as a "flagship church . . . not only in size but in mission and ministry."

Art Toalston writes for FMB.

12 of 14 resolutions die for lack of quorum

By Linda Lawson

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — In an unprecedented development at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting, 12 of 14 resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee could not be considered by messengers due to lack of a quorum Thursday morning.

Messengers adopted two resolutions Wednesday on possession of child pornography and environmental stewardship.

With an estimated 38,456 messengers registered, SBC registration secretary Lee Porter said 9,614 were needed for a quorum which, according to SBC bylaws, is 25 percent of registered messengers.

Dwight Reigher, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, estimated that between four and five thousand messengers were present 9 a.m. when the miscellaneous business was scheduled. At 10:45, when attendance had not increased, officers agreed a quorum would not be reached and announced no business could be done.

John Sullivan, a convention parliamentarian and executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, told messengers, "It is my conviction if our churches and institutions send us to the convention to do business, we should be as interested in doing

business today as any other day of the convention meeting."

Mark Corts, chairman of the 10-member Resolutions Committee and pastor of Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., said he "will explore if there is any way to get mileage out of these" 12 resolutions proposed by the committee but never considered.

"I would like to seek some way to get distribution for these resolutions as an expression of the committee," said Corts.

He added that he considers the committee report an expression of messenger concerns because those proposed by the committee were drafted by drawing from the record 87 submitted by messengers.

"We felt the messengers would respond favorably to our report," said Corts. "We gave careful, timely consideration to the concerns of messengers."

Because the SBC Executive Committee is designated to act on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention between sessions, some questioned privately whether the Executive Committee could consider the resolutions at its September meeting.

Chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty told Baptist Press con-

sideration by the Executive Committee would require a referral by the convention, a business action that could not be taken without a quorum.

"All business left over falls to the ground," said McCarty.

Of the two resolutions adopted without debate, one on possession of child pornography urges Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The resolution also asks the Christian Life Commission and other appropriate entities to call on the U.S. Congress "to amend federal child pornography statutes applying to federal land and facilities."

The second resolution adopted by messengers, on environmental stewardship, notes that while Christians are "forbidden to worship the creation," they are "called to be faithful stewards of that which is entrusted to us."

Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups are "encouraged to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of our lifestyle and evangelistic witness."

Linda Lawson writes for BSSB.

Conservatives sweep top SBC offices

By Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptists elected three conservatives as convention officers during the first day of their annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

The new officers are Morris Chapman, 1st vice president; Douglas Knapp, first vice president; and Fred Lowery, second vice president.

Chapman, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in Atlanta.

Chapman received 58 percent of the vote, or 21,471 votes compared to Vestal's 42 percent, or 15,753 votes.

More than 38,000 messengers had registered by the first election period on the program. In the presidential election, 97 percent of those messengers cast ballots.

Knapp, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla., defeated Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union who retired last year to marry and become a pastor's wife in Cincinnati.

Knapp received 60 percent of the vote or 16,348 votes, compared to Crumpler's 40 percent or 10,688 votes. In the race for first vice president, 70

percent of registered messengers voted.

Lowery, pastor of First Church in Bossier City, La., defeated two candidates for the second vice president's post: Raymond Boswell, a layman from Highland Church in Shreveport, La., and Steve Tondera, a layman from First Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Lowery received 64 percent of the vote or 6,347 votes compared to Boswell's 14 percent or 1,407 votes, and Tondera's 22 percent, or 2,178 votes.

In the race for second vice president, 26 percent of registered messengers voted.

Wingfield is on the staff of HMB.



The choir of First Church, Jackson, is shown during a performance at the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14 in New Orleans. Larry Black is director of the choir.

Avoid overload, error, Vines tells messengers

By Ken Camp

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention must be alert to the tendency toward "organizational overload and doctrinal error" or be destined for the "garbage dump of denominations," convention President Jerry Vines said June 12.

Vines, pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., delivered his presidential address on "the glory of the church" at the opening session of the three-day meeting in New Orleans.

"Those denominations that affirm the inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility of Scripture have a bright future. But those that do not are destined for the garbage dump of denominations," Vines said.

Unless churches remain vigilant in protecting doctrinal integrity and local identity, he said the denomination could become a "mustard tree monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

While denominational loyalty is desirable, Vines said, it must not supplant loyalty to Christ and the Bible. Furthermore, he stressed that the

choice of Sunday School literature used, the degree of financial support for cooperative missions endeavors and the organizations present in a congregation all are prerogatives of local churches. Churches must not allow themselves to be intimidated by "bureaucratic bullies" because of their choices, he said.

At the same time, Vines said that congregational independence should be tempered by interdependence on like-minded churches cooperating in missions and benevolence. "We can do together what we cannot do alone," he said.

Vines pointed to glory of the church universal, the church local, the church denominational, and the church eternal.

"If you try to build a church on any foundation other than the Lord Jesus Christ, it is destined to fall," Vines said. "It is his church and he will build it."

Vines is completing his second one-year term as president of the 14.9-million-member denomination.

Ken Camp is with the Texas Baptist PR Dept.

Messengers handle more than 35 motions at SBC

By Kathy Palen

NEW ORLEANS, June 14 — Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention dealt with more than 35 motions during the annual three-day meeting in New Orleans.

The motion receiving the most visible response from messengers called for the removal of a Southern Seminary trustee. A large number of messengers gave a lengthy standing ovation to a motion by W. Amar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed immediately as a trustee of that institution.

Johnson, pastor of Central Church in Aurora, Colo., wrote a 16-page article critical of Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and five professors. Johnson has refused to resign his trustee post.

Wadsworth's original motion was ruled out of order because, according to the convention's legal counsel, it would be impossible to provide Johnson with the fundamental protections of a notice and a hearing during the SBC annual meeting.

But following that ruling, Wadsworth was given the opportunity to introduce a second motion, referring the proposed action to Southern Seminary's board of trustees. Messengers approved that second motion by a show of hands.

The lack of a quorum on Thursday prohibited the convention from conducting business and thus from acting on a number of motions.

Messengers referred to the SBC Executive Committee three motions focusing on a controversy surrounding the chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Chairman Roland Lopez is pastor of Emmanuel Church in McAllen, Texas, which no longer is considered a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church because of its failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program.

In response to questions about Lopez's service as chairman, SBC President Jerry Vines ruled Lopez could serve because his church was a "cooperating church" at the time of his election as chairman.

In slightly different ways, each of the three motions would amend the SBC constitution or bylaws to prevent a member of a non-cooperating church from serving in such an office.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee called for:

- Requiring all SBC trustees and commissioners to be at least 30 years of age.

- Studying the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the scope and definition of the word "cooperation" as it relates to the SBC.

- Allowing Baptist state conventions to select their members on the SBC Committee on Nominations and Committee on Committees.

- Engaging an "independent, non-religiously affiliated" accounting firm to collect and supervise the tabulation of ballot votes at future SBC annual meetings.

- Requiring all SBC messengers to be at least 18 years of age.

- Placing all future SBC elections, motions and resolutions on ballots to be sent to participating Southern Baptist churches so elected messengers there could vote.

- Changing the convention's name

to the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

- Amending SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC committees, boards and institutions.

- Limiting representation from Southern Baptist churches affiliated with other denominations.

- Amending the process for the signing of messengers' letters.

Messengers also referred a number of motions to other SBC agencies. Those motions dealt with:

- The possible establishment of an SBC accrediting agency. The motion, which was referred to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, calls for a study of the feasibility of establishing such an accrediting agency for Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges.

- Instructing the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to determine the best way to "exert positive pressure" on its insurance carrier, Prudential Insurance Co., to remove itself as a corporate sponsor of Planned Parenthood. That motion — as well as one asking for a study of the possibility of subsidizing the health insurance programs of pastors of small churches — was referred to the Annuity Board.

- A request to terminate the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's policy prohibiting financial support from being given to a woman serving as pastor of a local church. The motion was referred to the HMB.

- A call for no SBC agency or institution to be used for political activity. It was referred to all convention entities.

Kathy Palen is on the staff of BJC.



Award winners — Winners of awards presented by the Black Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board include (front row, from left) Sallie Carey of Oak, Calif.; Fran Harvey, San Jose, Calif.; E. W. McCall Sr., La Puente, Calif.; (back row, from left) Newton Carey Jr., Oak, Calif.; Eddie Jones, Greenville, Miss.; Larry E. Elliott, Jacksonville, Fla.; Willie T. Gaines, San Jose, Calif.; and David T. P. Perrin, District Heights, Md. (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy)

Church extension award goes to Eddie Jones

By Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 — Churches cooperating to start new churches is the hope of evangelizing America, speakers at a new work banquet said Monday night.

The banquet, sponsored by the Home Mission Board, SBC, and the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship, was held at the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel on the eve of the denomination's annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

Three speakers who are currently involved in church starting urged the group of about 600 people to foster cooperation among Southern Baptists to begin new congregations.

Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Church in Houston, said Texas has become a new mission field that needs more black congregations. "We are losing the battle," he said.

"The state of Texas in the year 2000 will look more like me than like most of you," the black pastor told the predominantly white crowd. "Unless we lock arms together — black, white, and yellow — we will not win this nation to Christ."

Cooperation requires that existing churches open their facilities to new work, a Hispanic pastor told the gathering.

Jorge Navarro, pastor of Iglesia Bautista in Nuevo Nacimiento, Calif., issued an appeal for churches with large buildings but declining congregations to open their facilities to growing ethnic churches that have no place to meet.

Dorothy Williamson, church planter strategist with Pearl River Association in Carriere, Miss., said church starting is the best way to enjoy going to church.

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis told the assembly that church starting is "the greatest part of God's work."

He reported that the denomination started 1,306 new churches in 1989, according to reports on the Uniform Church Letter. However, he said state conventions and the HMB have identified 20,000 places across America where additional congregations are needed.

Ralph Smith, chairman of the HMB's board of directors and pastor of Hyde Park Church in Austin, Texas, spoke of his own commitment to church starting.



New Work Award — Eddie Jones, pastor of Victory Temple Church in Greenville, received a church extension award from HMB President Larry Lewis. Jones, who initiated Southern Baptist work among blacks in Mississippi, helped three missions develop into churches. The award was presented in New Orleans June 11 during a new work banquet prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. The banquet celebrated 1306 church starts in 1989. (HMB Photo by Mark Sandlin)

Eight people received awards for their role in starting new churches.

Black church extension awards were given to Eddie Jones, pastor of Victory Temple Church in Greenville, Miss., and Lonnie Dawson, pastor of New Mount Calvary Church in Los Angeles.

Language church extension awards were given to Navarro and Michael Thomas, pastor of New Vision Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

New church extension awards were given to Raymond O'Quinn, pastor of Harmony Mission in Graceville, Fla., and David Dean, pastor of First Church of Sudbury, Mass.

Associational missions awards were given to Doyle Braden, director of missions for California's Orange County Association, and Lawrence Clegg, director of missions for four associations in Louisiana.

Mark Wingfield writes for HMB.

Land outlines plan for CLC expansion

By Jim Newton

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, outlined plans for extensive expansion of the CLC office in Washington following adoption of a \$300,000 increase to its budget June 13.

Land said the action of the Southern Baptist Convention to add religious liberty and separation of church and state issues to his agency's program statement would greatly strengthen Southern Baptists' influence in the nation's capitol.

He discounted as unfounded any fear that the Christian Life Commission would send messages to Congress that would conflict with the voice of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which represents nine Baptist bodies on religious liberty and church state separation issues.

Both Land and James Dunn, executive director of the BJC, answered questions during press conferences following SBC actions which cut the budget of the BJC by 87 percent and increased the budget of the CLC by 40 percent.

Dunn said the action would free the BJC to raise money from other sources, to reorganize its board to give more representation to other Baptist groups and to project a more sophisticated agenda.

"It will also free us of a certain amount of harassment," Dunn said. He added that the BJC plans to con-

tinue its operation.

The BJC and CLC might send conflicting messages to Congress, but "we will just have to live with that," Dunn said.

The CLC, which also is assigned to handle social and moral concerns for Southern Baptists, will maintain its national headquarters in Nashville but strengthen its operations in Washington.

Land announced plans to add three members to the staff of the CLC's Washington office: the general counsel/Christian citizenship director, a news media director, an administrative assistant, plus the current director of government relations, Jim Smith.

Land said about 35 percent of the agency's \$1.2 million budget would support the new Washington office. The CLC is negotiating for more office space within walking distance of Capitol Hill, he added.

"My perspective," said Land, "is that we have a two-pronged assignment: to speak to Southern Baptists as the denomination's prophetic conscience on moral and social issues, and to ascertain what Southern Baptist views are and bring those Baptist convictions to bear before policy-making groups in Washington."

The CLC will follow the wishes of the SBC as stated in convention-adopted resolutions such as those on abortion and prayer in public schools,

Land said.

However, he said he supports the 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions on prayer in public schools, and believes that since the Supreme Court has upheld the equal access clause that Baptist clamor for public school prayer will decrease.

The CLC will focus on issues and not endorse candidates for political office, he added.

The conflicts between the CLC and BJC will be far less than most people might suppose, he predicted.

The greatest threat to religious liberty in the last half of the 20th century will come from the violations of the "free exercise of religion clause" in the First Amendment that would impinge on individuals' right to exercise their religious faith freely, he said.

The recent "Peyote case" in which the Supreme Court ruled against Native American Indians' use of peyote in religious rites was a "terrible travesty that must be overturned," Land noted.

Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas, general counsel for the BJC, said earlier that misinformation had been circulated before the convention on the BJC's position on the "Peyote case." He denied the BJC has advocated use of illegal drugs in religious ceremonies. He said he helped draft a petition for a hearing to protect the free exercise

(Continued on page 6)



Foster appreciation — Harold C. Bennett (right), president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, expresses appreciation to outgoing committee member Ingram L. Foster of Prentiss, Miss. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

Nominations adopted despite challenge to committee chairman

By Kathy Palen

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention voted to adopt the report of the convention's Committee on Nominations despite challenges to several nominees and to the committee's chairman.

The report included 263 individuals nominated to serve on the boards of trustees of the 24 entities related to the 14.9-million-member denomination.

Chairman Roland Lopez, pastor of Emmanuel Church in McAllen, Texas, recommended four changes in the committee's report as released through Baptist Press in late April.

Lopez recommended the replacement of two nominees, both of whom are members of his congregation. Because of a failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, that church is no longer considered to be a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church and thus its members may not be elected to serve on SBC boards or commissions.

On those same grounds, Lopez's own service as chairman of the Committee on Nominations came under question. SBC President Jerry Vines, in consultation with the convention parliamentarians and legal counsel, held that Lopez could serve in that office since his church was a

"cooperating church" at the time of his election.

The committee recommended that Southern Baptist Home Mission Board nominee Wencelago Rangel be replaced by J. Walter Carpenter of Houston and Education Commission nominee Antonio Villalobos be replaced by James Stewart of El Paso, Texas.

In addition, the committee recommended the addition of Joe Wedan of Chanute, Kan., as a member of the Brotherhood Commission and John Bisagno of Houston as an at-large member of the Baptist World Alliance.

David Montoya, pastor of First Church of Gravette, Ark., and a member of the Committee on Nominations, announced in May that he had prepared a minority report containing more than 30 "alternate nominations" to the committee's report.

Montoya's attempt to present those nominations was scuttled when Vines refused to reverse a ruling that only one challenge to the committee's report could be made at a time.

Two attempts to amend the report — one made by Montoya and the other by Floyd Parker of South Carolina — both failed.

Kathy Palen is on the staff of BJC.

Recording secretary is defeated

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — David Atchison, a Nashville, Tenn., layman, was elected recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention June 13, defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville who had held the post for 12 years.

Atchison, who received 9,206 votes to Bradley's 8,044, was nominated by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, Texas, and a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

While Bradley had been elected annually without opposition in recent years, Coffey told the messengers he felt the need for wider participation among the leadership. Atchison is the

son of Joe W. Atchison of Rogers, Ark., a director of missions and trustee of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

The recording secretary of the SBC holds a seat on the Executive Committee by virtue of office.

Lee Porter, registration secretary, won another one-year term by defeating Bob Mowrey, a Nashville pastor, by a vote of 13,242 to 5,048.

Coffey, who also nominated Mowrey, pastor of Park Avenue Church said he was doing it for the same reasons.

Porter has been registration secretary for 12 years

America near destruction, prayer leader Willis warns

By Terri Lackey

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Decadence, crime, violence, the recent onslaught of natural disasters, and an ecological system that is failing are signs God has turned his back on America as a nation, a prayer leader said.

The next step is to destroy it, Avery Willis of the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department told a conference on prayer. Other speakers included T.W. Hunt, also of the Sunday School Board; Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board; Minette Drumwright, Foreign Mission Board; and Doug Beggs, Brotherhood Commission. The National Prayer Conference was held at New Orleans Seminary June 7-9.

God "removes his wall of protection when his people are disobedient," Willis said. The former missionary to Indonesia believes God took his wall of protection away from America sometime around 1963.

"The war in Vietnam should have been a clear signal that God was not protecting us anymore," Willis said. "Until then, America had been a victor in all wars."

About the time Willis believes God removed his "wall of protection" from America, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and rebellion against the Vietnam war pervaded the country. Also, at that time, premarital sex, teen pregnancies, child abuse, the divorce rate, crime, violence, alcohol consumption, and suicides began to increase dramatically.

Willis supported his beliefs with governmental statistics that he found in the book, "America: To Pray or Not Pray," by David Barton.

For example, violent crime is up over 400 percent since 1963, child abuse is up 300 percent, federal prosecution of politicians has increased 470 percent, and the number of reported cases of AIDS is up by 6,000 percent since 1982. Even scores on college entrance exams taken by high school students have declined significantly since the early '60s.

America is in the fifth of seven stages of eventual destruction by God, Willis said. In the first stage, God convicts his people of their sins. He then warns them of sins, and in the third

stage, he applies remedial judgment of sins committed.

In the fourth stage, God withdraws his presence. In the fifth, he takes away his wall of protection and allows disasters to come upon his people. Next, he gives his people over to sin, failure, and depravity. Finally, he destroys his people.

Willis, Blackaby, and the other prayer leaders see prayer and corporate repentance as the only way to salvage America and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Blackaby said the Bible clearly states, "If God's people don't repent, then you will be no more."

But God is desperately trying to get the attention of his people.

"When God takes the initiative to call his people together for corporate confession, you better not have any other business. God is in the midst of one of the greatest calls to repentance I've ever known," he said.

The National Prayer Conference was sponsored by the Sunday School Board's National Prayer Corps department and Louisiana Baptists.

Terri Lackey writes for BSSB.

N.O. convention registration 38,478

By Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The 1990 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting drew the third-largest crowd and the second-largest Tuesday registration in the denomination's 145-year history.

Unaudited registration totaled 38,478, to be compared with 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986. A final total will not be available until all messenger cards are tallied.

This year's registration patterns compared closely to the 1988 convention in San Antonio, Texas, said Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville, when 32,727 messengers registered.

Hourly checks of registration from the opening of registration lines Sunday until 6 p.m. Monday night appeared almost identical to the pattern established in San Antonio, Porter said. After 6 p.m. Monday, the New Orleans registration jumped ahead of San Antonio.

The increased flow of registrants continued Tuesday, giving the New Orleans convention the second-highest Tuesday registration in history. Almost 9,000 messengers registered on that day.

"In most of the past eight to 10 years, we've registered 3,000 to 5,000 people on Tuesday," Porter said. "The only exception was in Dallas where 10,000 people registered on Tuesday morning."

Tuesday is the opening day of the three-day annual meeting. Most of the convention's contested elections — including the race for president and a vote on changing agency program statements and budgets regarding religious liberty — were scheduled for Tuesday.

"Many of these messengers who registered on Tuesday came from

small churches in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama," Porter explained.

The high registration total created a problem Wednesday morning, when a business session had to be delayed because of the lack of a quorum. At least 9,604 messengers were needed to meet the 25 percent quorum stipulated in SBC Bylaws.

Based upon Porter's estimates at 10 a.m. Wednesday, the largest number of messengers came from Texas (4,550) followed by Georgia (3,950), Louisiana (3,550), North Carolina (3,400), Alabama (3,150) and Mississippi (3,100).

Other registration estimates by state are:

Alaska, 75; Arizona, 125; Arkansas, 1,200; California, 325; Colorado, 115; Connecticut, 25; Delaware, 10; D.C., 60; Florida, 2,600;

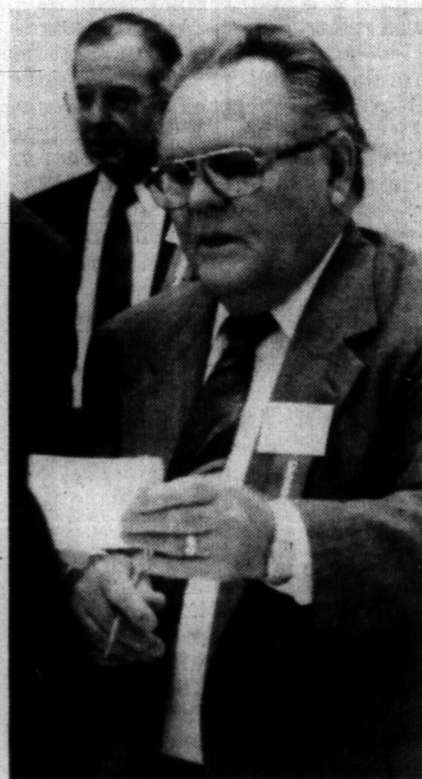
Hawaii, 40; Idaho, 10; Illinois, 350; Indiana, 260; Iowa, 40; Kansas, 160; Kentucky, 2,250; Maine, 3;

Maryland, 310; Massachusetts, 25; Michigan, 110; Minnesota, 20; Missouri, 1,600; Montana, 20; Nebraska, 15; Nevada, 55; New Hampshire, 10; New Jersey, 55; New Mexico, 180;

New York, 80; North Dakota, 40; Oklahoma, 1,050; Ohio, 310; Oregon, 25; Pennsylvania, 90; Puerto Rico, 5; Rhode Island, 10; South Carolina, 2,260; South Dakota, 30; Tennessee, 2,650; Utah, 40; Vermont, 10; Virginia, 2,050; Washington, 50; West Virginia, 125; Wisconsin, 20; Wyoming, 10.

Mark Wingfield is on the staff of FMB.

Some folks aren't as anxious to get where they're going as they are to get away from where they've been.



Joe Cobb, BSU director at Northwest Mississippi Junior College in Booneville, serves as member of the SBC's Credential Committee.

Land outlines . . .

(Continued from page 5)

of religion, but did not defend the use of peyote in religious rites.

Both Dunn and Land opposed the use of tax money for religious schools. "There seem to be some folks," said Dunn, "who believe you can take a little tax money as if you could be just a little bit pregnant."

Dunn said he plans to continue his stand on religious liberty and church-state separation just as he has in the past. "My commitment is to do the job God has called me to do, and I haven't heard God call me elsewhere," he insisted.

Jim Newton is on the staff of HMB.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Left to right are Kim Huyen, Chinh Van, Hoa Van, and Nhon Van, who live at 9006 Dogwood Drive, Clinton.

"One nation . . . with liberty . . . for all"

Paul A. Witteman in *Time* magazine said that 750,000 Vietnamese live in the U.S. Many of them came here as refugees at the close of America's war in Vietnam. Members of one such family who came to the United States 15 years ago have been my neighbors in Clinton for eight years. I live at 1006 and they live at 9006 Dogwood Drive.

Hoa and Nhon Van told me that they came directly to Fort Smith, Ark., from Nha Trang, Vietnam, and then from Fort Smith to Jackson. Nhon had served in the Navy.

Northwest Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, (now Cherry Park Church, Clinton), as their sponsors, assisted them in various ways as they learned English, and found jobs and a place to live.

At first, they lived a short time in the home of a church member. Later they moved into an apartment, and then into a house. They own their home on Dogwood. Nhon's first job was with Frito-Lay.

Alan Summers, member of Northwest Hills Church, taught Nhon to drive, and taught him how to read English. "As his friend, I just tried to help him with the little everyday things of our way of life, things that we take for granted, but that were unfamiliar to him," recalled Summers.

Fifteen years ago, the Vans' son, Chinh, was 3 years old. A few weeks ago, he was graduated from Clinton High School. He said that he plans to enroll this fall in premed at Millsaps College in Jackson. He wants to become a doctor, and is especially interested in the study of genetics.

In high school, Chinh played football. At graduation, he received a Presidential Fitness Award, which required an academic average of at least 95. His friend, Steve Summers, said, "He was very popular with his

classmates. He's easy to get along with."

His cousin, Kim Huyen, came to live with the family in recent years. Next year she will graduate from Clinton High School.

Often when I go for a walk and pass their house, I see Hoa in the yard, working with her flowers. Usually I walk past slowly, to admire her handiwork. Nearly always, I see something there, in bloom.

During the week she works at Milwaukee Electric Tool Company in Jackson. Her favorite way of relaxing after she gets home is to work with her flowers, she said. Her husband, who works for a manufacturing company in Indianola, six days a week, is only home on Sundays.

Hoa said that she and her husband were already Christians before they left Vietnam, but were not members of a Baptist church.

Larry Pepper was their Sunday School teacher at Northwest Hills 15 years ago (he is now a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton). He said he helped to teach them Scripture verses in English. They joined the Northwest Hills Church and were baptized there.

It must have been difficult for them to leave their families, whom they have not been able to visit in these 15 years. It must have been difficult for this young couple to leave the land of their birth, and to begin anew, with a new language. Yet they have put down roots and have become a part of us, who call ourselves Americans.

"Why did you come?" I asked. "Are you sorry or glad that you did?"

"We came because we wanted to live where we could have freedom," said Nhon.

"And we are not sorry we came," said Hoa. "We are happy here."

Thursday, June 28, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Exec. Committee re-elects officers

By Robert O'Brien

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) re-elected its officers during a June 13 organizational meeting.

In other developments, the committee processed requests that its September meeting include a spiritual solemn assembly for its members and a discussion of the Washington office of Baptist Press, news service of the SBC.

A concluding prayer session included prayer requested to express concern and love for moderates hurt by conservative victories at the SBC meeting in New Orleans and that trustees of Southwestern Seminary "be led by the Holy Spirit," hear God's voice and do his will in their relationship with seminary president Russell Dilday.

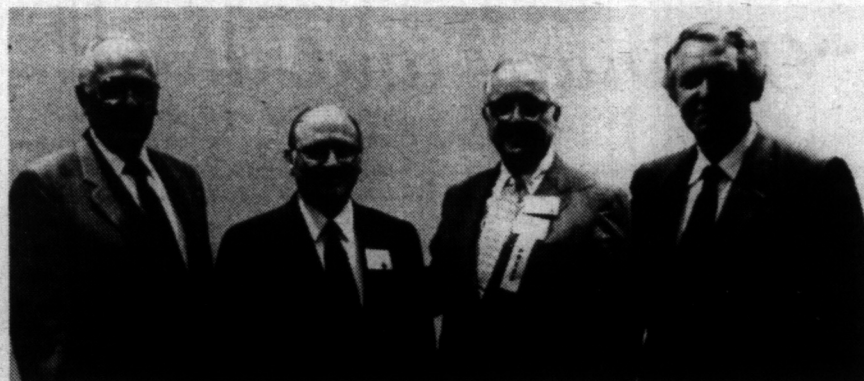
Officers elected unanimously to second one-year terms were Sam Pace, director of associational missions, Lawton, Okla., chairman; Paul Pressler, Houston appeals court judge, vice chairman; and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hills Church, Mobile, Ala., recording secretary.

Pressler brought up the Baptist Press question when he suggested that the SBC Christian Life Commission be asked "to submit to us in September the name of the person they would like to head the Baptist Press office in Washington."

BP's Washington office has been housed at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for 33 years. It is one of five offices which relate to the national BP office located at the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn.

SBC messengers in New Orleans approved Executive Committee recommendations to cut the BJCPA's budget by 87 percent, add a religious liberty function to the program statement of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and raise the CLC's budget by more than 40 percent. Historically, the BJCPA has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists.

An Executive Committee document expressed "strong belief" that the BP Washington bureau should shift from



Executive committee officers — Officers re-elected to serve the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are (from left) Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, of Nashville, Tenn.; Sam Pace, chairman, director of associational missions in Lawton, Okla.; Paul Pressler, vice chairman, Houston, Texas, appeals court judge; and Fred Wolfe, recording secretary, pastor of Cottage Hills Church in Mobile, Ala. (SBC photo by Dutch Bickley)

the BJCPA to the CLC. But neither the Executive Committee nor the CLC has announced specific actions related to the transfer.

The Executive Committee's opinion on the transfer was expressed in a document it adopted expressing "Some Reasons for the Southern Baptist Convention 1990-91 Budget Allocation to Support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State."

The document said \$155,000 of the funds cut from the BJCPA and given to the CLC "will allow the CLC to house and operate the Baptist Press Washington office."

Dilday's relationship to Southwestern Seminary trustees surfaced when Don Taylor, a seminary trustee, asked for prayer to guide the trustees in how to respond to comments Dilday made Wednesday during the seminary's report to the SBC.

Dilday, responding to a question from the floor, said "the methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years — the crass, secular, political methodology — does have satanic, evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed."

Taylor, a layman from Asheville, N.C., characterized Dilday's remarks as degrading. He asked the committee to pray that the Southwestern trustees "will have stamina to do what needs to be done" in regard to Dilday.

T.C. Pinckney, an Executive Committee member from Alexandria, Va.,

asked for prayer for moderates.

Pinckney, who expressed pleasure at the outcome of actions at the SBC meeting, said conservatives should pray for those "Southern Baptists who aren't part of the conservative group who look at this convention with pain in their hearts."

"We differ in substance, but share their hurt and raise them up before the Lord," Pinckney said.

The Executive Committee also agreed to a request by Larry Keith Otis of Calvary Church, Tupelo, Miss., to reaffirm the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world by A.D. 2000 and beyond.

Eight new Executive Committee members introduced at the meeting included Otis, a businessman; Steve Choplin, a power and light company executive from Long Leaf Church, Wilmington, N.C.; J.C. Mitchell, pastor of First Church, Winter Park, Fla.; James Lee Oliver, pastor of Bethlehem Church, Moore, S.C.; Joe H. Reynolds, an attorney from Second Church, Houston; Lee Roberts, a businessman from Eastside Church, Marietta, Ga.

Also, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, the newly elected SBC president; and David Atkinson, a layman from Two Rivers Church, Nashville, the newly elected SBC recording secretary.

Robert O'Brien is on the staff of FMB.

Educators told, "demand quality"

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association focused on preparing for the future and building relationships during its 35th annual meeting June 10-11 in New Orleans.

The 1990s will require Southern Baptist religious educators to become infected with "an epidemic of quality," said Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at First Church in Dallas.

Religious educators will have to be "unmerciful" in demanding church ministries function with a high degree of quality, he said. But, he insisted that educators also must be unyielding in their insistence that church programming reflect sound principles of religious education.

Gary Hauk, manager of the Sunday School Board's family enrichment section, said ministers must be able to differentiate between their God-given vision of ministry and the expectations of other people.

For a minister, vision is "permission to live out a calling higher than myself," he explained.



SBREA officers — Newly-elected officers for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association include (front row, from left), Joe Haynes, secretary-treasurer, growth/administration consultant for the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; Bill Gambrell, president-elect, minister of education at First Church, Jackson, Miss.; R. W. Bobby Martin, central vice-president, minister of education, First Church, Carrollton, Texas; (back row, from left) Hoyt R. Wilson, eastern vice-president, minister of education/administration, Mountain Brook Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Katie Grogan, president, director of the department of church administration/family ministries, Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware; Robert L. Lamb, vice-president, professor of Christian education, Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Larry Burrow, western vice-president, minister of education/administration, Magnolia Avenue Church, Riverside, Calif.; and Merle T. Basden, executive director of the SBREA board of directors. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

Devotional

"Ordinary and thick"

By Gene Hines

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us (2 Corinthians 4:7; New International Version).

Recently I read a newspaper interview done with Beatle John Lennon some years ago. In that interview, Lennon expressed the opinion that Christianity was doomed to "shrink and vanish." And then he said something that struck home with me. He said that Jesus himself was "all right," but that his disciples were "thick and ordinary."



Hines

Yes, Mr. Lennon, you were quite right about that. Jesus' disciples certainly were "thick and ordinary." And that is the whole point. In that very fact lies the beauty and the great joy and hope of the Christian faith.

In this hunger-after-fame-and-worship-glitter world, how difficult is it for so many to get the simple point that it was among the lowly and humble that the Son of God came to serve and to save. And every time I read those words of Paul, "We have this treasure in jars of clay," I thank God. I thank God that even though I am "ordinary and thick"

— I am a weak and human sinner — Jesus Christ died to save me and arose to commission me his witness. What a message!

What a shocking and unexpected message that God chose to reveal his glory in Jesus Christ to cheap, common clay pots like us! According to radio commentator Paul Harvey, a recent survey reveals that a fair percentage of Americans would be willing to have a finger cut off to get a part in a movie. How hooked people are on the false demon of fleeting fame; for even just a taste of celebrity and distinction. Yet, weak and human, ordinary and undistinguished, thick and uncomprehending as we are, God offers us the glory of Jesus Christ.

Yes, Mr. Lennon, the disciples were an ordinary, often wrong-headed, and unimpressive lot. And that is just the point of the gospel. In sending his son to die for such men as that, to make his witnesses such men as that, God reveals the all-surpassing glory of his power.

Gene Hines is a missionary, serving in Tokyo, Japan.

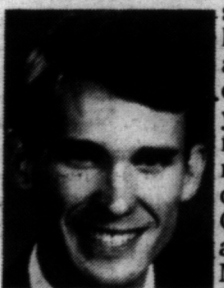
Staff changes



Bounds

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, has called Rodney Bounds as minister of youth and activities. He is moving from Park Place Church, Brandon. Bounds received his education at Belhaven College and New Orleans Seminary.

Andy Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wright of Columbus, has been called to Pine Summit Church, Pensacola, Fla., where he will be serving as minister of education and youth. He recently received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and served Metairie Church in New Orleans. His home church is First Church, Columbus and he previously served Immanuel Church in Columbus.



Wright

Whitesand Church, Prentiss, (Jeff Davis) has called Charles Wesley Davis to pastor, effective June 1. Wesley, formerly of Rolling Fork, comes from Morrison Chapel Church in Cleveland. He received his master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary in 1975.

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, has called Sharon Darter of Jackson, as summer youth worker, effective June 3. A native of Atlanta, she is a graduate of Millsaps College, Jackson.

First Church, Brandon, announces the addition of Brian Choate, as minister of youth and recreation. He moves from Calvary Church, Little Rock, Ark.

Ken Anderson accepted the call of Parkway Church, Jackson, and became its fifth pastor. He follows Bill Causey who served as pastor for 25 years before becoming executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Anderson

Anderson is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous pastorate was at Black-jack Church in Yazoo County. During the past three years Anderson has served as associate pastor at Parkway Church.

First Church, Charleston, has called Tommy Clark as pastor, effective May 27. His previous place of service was N. Carrollton Church, N. Carrollton. A native of Jackson, Clark is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Martin Bluff Church, Gautier, has called Murphy D. Young of Pascagoula, as pastor, effective June 3. A native of Laurel, he received his education at William Carey College and Southwestern Seminary.

Openings available at Central Hills

The summer missions camp remaining schedule at Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko, for boys in grades 4-12, are July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27, and July 30-Aug. 3. Cost of these camps is \$80 per boy.

Dad and Lad Weekend camps, for boys in grades 1-3 and their fathers,

Carroll-Montgomery calls DOM

Ronald Ballard, 49, will be the new director of missions for Carroll-Montgomery Associations beginning July 1.



Ballard

He comes to the post from the pastorate of Union Hall Church, Brookhaven, where he has served since 1987. Prior to that, he was pastor of Trinity Church, Leake Association, 1985-87.

Ballard and his wife, Martha Sue, served as missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1976-84, in Paraguay. Ballard was a chaplain at the Baptist hospital in Asuncion. Earlier pastorates include Carrollton Church, 19974-76; Hickory Grove Church, Lauderdale Association, 1972-74; Mt. Carmel Church, Warren, Mich., 1969-71; Mer Rouge Church in Louisiana, 1967-69; and County Line and Springdale churches in Attala Association, 1965-67.

A native of Meridian, Ballard is a graduate of Clarke College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. The Ballards have three grown children.

Martin Douglas, Pearl Valley pastor, dies

Martin Luther Douglas, 68, a Baptist minister, died of a heart attack June 14 at Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital in Hazlehurst.

Services were held at Strong Hope Church, Copiah County.

Douglas, a Lawrence County native, had lived in Wesson 45 years. He was the former pastor of Strong Hope and Sardis (Copiah) and Antioch in Lawrence County. He had been pastor of Pearl Valley Church (Copiah) for 10 years. He recently retired after 33 years of teaching school. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran.

"He touched so many people," said his son, Kenneth Wayne Douglas of Jackson. "He taught seventh- and eighth-grade math in Wesson for 33 years. He taught everybody who came through that school."

"He lived his life giving and giving and giving," his son said. "When he had the heart attack, he was mowing the lawn of a church member. He epitomized the giving servant you read about in the Bible."

Other survivors include: wife, Gladys; son, Tony Douglas of Wesson; daughters, Joan Dodd of Brookhaven and Janet Blackman of Wesson; five brothers; and four sisters; and seven grandchildren.

Centerville (Jones) to celebrate 75th year

Centerville Church in Jones County, will celebrate its 75th anniversary and homecoming on Sunday, July 8.

The morning service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served, followed by an afternoon service at 1 p.m.

Gerald Keith Gordon, former pastor, will bring the morning message. John Hilbun is pastor.

Pictured is the old church, which was built in 1915-1916.



Names in the news



Pastor Appreciation Day was held on June 10 for Lamar Burkes who has served at Bethel Church in Leake County for 30 years. The program was in the form of "This Is Your Life," and included a video message from his son, daughter-in-law, and five week old grandson from South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkes (pictured) were presented with a plaque and a gift certificate by Alton Johnson, deacon. A plaque of dedication was placed in the new fellowship hall in honor of Burkes' long years of service to Bethel Church.

Dale Howard was licensed to preach by Terry Road Church, Jackson, on June 3. Terry Road Church was organized two years ago, and Howard is the second person to be licensed. Henry Bennett is pastor.

College Hill Church, Calhoun Association, ordained Mickey Walls into the gospel ministry June 3. Wayne Cobb, pastor, Mount Moriah Church, Calhoun Association, brought the charge of the church as Wayne Gullett, director of missions, Calhoun Association, brought the charge to the candidate. The service was dedicated to the memory of the late Robert L. Harville. It was concluded with a sermon from Floyd Lamb, pastor, Keownville Church, Union Association. Special music was provided by members of College Hill Church. Walls has been called as pastor to Pulaski Church in Scott Association.

Mrs. Dorothy Parker, wife of James E. Parker, died June 9. Parker is pastor of First Church, Lake Providence, La. He has been pastor of churches in Mississippi including Oakland Heights Church, Meridian. Mrs. Parker is the former Dorothy Haggard of Louisville, Miss.

Louise Hamblett Jeffreys, 66, died Friday, June 15, at the Community Hospital in Calhoun County. She was a member of Poplar Springs Church of Vardaman. She was a Young Adult Sunday School teacher, a member of the WMU, and a homemaker.

Services were held at Parker Memorial Home in Bruce with Paul Wilson, Bill Garrett, and Harold Bennett officiating. Burial was in the New Hope Cemetery of Coffeeville, June 17.

Survivors include her husband, James A. Jeffreys of Vardaman; three sons, James Randle Jeffreys of Eufaula, Ala., Howard (Brad) Jeffreys of Bruce, and John Mark Jeffreys of Vardaman; two brothers, Ralph Hamblett of Vicksburg and Ray Hamblett of Como; one sister, Ouida McCracken of Coffeeville; and three grandchildren.



First Church, Poplarville, recognized Mark Parnell and his family June 3 for five years of service as minister of youth, education and recreation. Parnell was recognized during the morning service with a plaque. Following the evening worship, the Parnell family was honored with a reception. The Parnells were also "roasted" by former youths and friends.

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Mississippi Baptist activities

July 1

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Just for the Record

Thursday, June 28, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Children honor Pippen's golden anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Pippen were honored with an afternoon reception to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, June 10, at Sandersville Church. During their 50 years of marriage, he pastored churches in Jasper, Jones, Clay, Lowndes, Wayne counties, and in Kennedy, Ala. Pippen

preached for about 43 years.

The reception was given by the Pippens' children, David and Faye Pippen, Barbara Sellers, Charles and Cathy McLaurin, and grandchildren, Clay and Dawn Sellers, Jonathan and Amanda Pippen, and Chip and Kari McLaurin.

Reception to be held for Stanley, pastor, Northside, Clinton

The congregation of Northside Church, Clinton, will honor John Stanley with a reception on Sunday, July 1, from 3-5 p.m. He resigned as pastor of Northside Church, effective July 1, to accept the pastorate of Highland Park Church in Austin, Texas.

Stanley went to Northside Church five years ago after serving as associate pastor of Bull Street Church

in Savannah, Ga.

During his pastorate, 276 individuals united with the church and the budget grew from \$89,000 to over \$200,000 a year and missions giving increased by 69 percent.

Stanley, a native of Harrisville, graduated from Mississippi College, Southeastern Seminary, and is working on the doctor of ministries degree at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.

Revival dates

Wesson Church, Wesson: July 8-11; services at 7 each night; Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Jerry Merriman, director, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, leading the music; Mike Carr, pastor.

Bethlehem Church (Yazoo): July 8-13; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch served, and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Brian Ables, evangelist; John Yates, music; John Schollar, pastor.

Whitesand Church, Prentiss (Jeff Davis): July 8-12; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:50 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., Discipleship Training, 5:30 p.m., worship, 6:30 p.m.; Charles Wesley, pastor, Whitesand Church, effective June 1, evangelist.

Homecomings

Grandview Church, Pearl, 30th anniversary: July 1; regular services will be held with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship services at 11; Gordon Shambarger, former pastor of Grandview, preaching; lunch at the church and afternoon of singing. No night services; Wade Chappell is pastor.

New Providence Church (Columbia): July 1; offerings taken for the day will go to cemetery fund; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; Bill Hutto, former pastor, speaker; lunch at noon; Eddie Marker, pastor; afternoon services will include singing and recognition of former pastors and members.



First Church, Vicksburg, held a GA recognition service May 16. Pictured, (left to right) front row, Beverly Maynard, leader, Danellen Johnson, Denise Mallett, Jennifer George, Maggie Maynard, Lee Claypool, Melanie Mendrop, Holly Neal, Dana Godfrey, Lacy Chaney, Kayla Greenlee, Jessie Tomlinson, and Wanda McCabe, leader. Second row: Jill Arnold, Allison McDonald, Melanie Hallberg, Emily Stauble, April Fron, Jessie Bryant, Amanda Logue, Anna Stone, and Katie Grogan. Third row: Darlene Muirhead, leader, Amanda Pikul, Julie Craft, Lori

Albritton, leader, Janie Stauble, and Linda Middleton, leader. Fourth row: Stacey George, Annabeth Freeman, Beth Hassell, and Mary Ferrell. Fifth row: Diane Duncan, Melinda Middleton, Ashley Shelton and Amy Catherine Virden. Not pictured is Lana Clair Freeman. In addition to receiving grade level Mission Adventure badges, there were four sixth grade girls who received MA charms for completing all grade six levels. They are: Jill Arnold, Allison McDonald, Danellen Johnson, and Denise Mallett.



At Colonial Heights, Jackson, 1st and 2nd grade GAs were rewarded at a Mother-Daughter Tea and recognized in the worship service which followed. Front row: Katie Howell, Alicia LeBlanc, Ann Lambuth, Amber Thompson, Maggie Heath, Elise Lambuth. Second row: Dana Stringer, Anna Smith, Hailey Segrest, Emily Morrison, Sarah King, Katie McNeely, Amanda Brown, and Kimberly Watts.

Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain, (Tippah) surpassed its Annie Armstrong goal of \$2500 by giving \$3,022.05. Mary Buchanan is WMU director; Ray Crawford is Brotherhood director.

Lowrey Memorial Church also observed GA Recognition Service on April 29. Annie Hendricks directed the program which recognized six Mission Friends (under the direction of Karen Buckles), 25 Girls in Action (under the direction of Miss Hendricks), and two Acteens (under the direction of Heather Watson).

Johnnie Armstrong, head of the Physical Education Dept. at Blue Mountain College, gave the challenge message. This service marked the 44th year Hendricks has directed GA work at Lowrey Memorial. Beth Phillips, daughter of Ken and Brenda Phillips, was recognized for her Service Aide accomplishment. Beth is a graduate of Blue Mountain High School, and will continue her education at Blue Mountain College this summer.

Clarke College held registration for the first term of its 1990 summer session, June 4. A total of 65 students registered for classes.

Jim Read, dean of the college, stated that this enrollment was a record breaking figure since Clarke became a division of Mississippi College in 1980-81. In fact, these students make up the largest summer school enrollment at Clarke since the mid-1950's. He also said that many of these students attending summer school were taking advantage of the scholarships offered by members of First Church, Newton.

The first five-week summer term ends on July 6, and the second five-week term begins July 9.

White Oak Church (Neshoba) will hold a Bible Preaching Conference Fri., July 6 at 7 p.m. and Sat., July 7 at 5:30 p.m. Preachers will be called on to preach as the Lord leads. White Oak Church is located eight miles off the River Road. Greg Renfrow is pastor.

First Church, Brandon, will host a day of fun and activities in a spirit of honor and pride, July 1. The events will include services, luncheon, poster and essay contest, arts and crafts, flower exhibitors, musical skits, and more.

"Cardiac Rebounders," a support group organized by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's cardiac rehab department for heart patients or the spouse of a heart patient will meet July 2, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium on the subway level. Call 968-3090 to register or to receive more information.

Halbert Heights Church, Brookhaven, will have Pastor Erroll Hulse from Leeds, England, speak on July 1-3. During his four weeks in the United States he will be speaking at the annual Southern Baptist Founders Youth Conference in Panama City, Fla. and at six different churches.

Hulse is involved in mission work throughout the world. But his main work is in Africa where he works with churches and pastors in starting new churches. He is editor of a magazine called *Reformation Today*.

Hulse will be speaking on prayer and spiritual awakening at 6:30 p.m. on July 1 and at 7 on July 2 and 3. Thomas E. Winn is pastor.

The Dixie Echoes from Florida will be in concert at First Church, Purvis, Sunday, July 1, at 6:30 p.m. No admission charge but a love offering will be received. Louis Nicolosi is pastor.

Success comes before work only in the dictionary.

Men of the noblest disposition think themselves happiest when others share their happiness with them. — William Duncan



Volunteers from the Attala Association are shown at the site of the new fellowship hall for the Pilgrim's Rest Church in Ethel. So far, the workers have completed a water well, roof, and insulation. Ground for the brick structure was broken April 29. Walter Hines is pastor at Pilgrim's Rest.



Ground breaking ceremonies were held April 29 at Pilgrim's Rest Church, Ethel (Attala) for a new fellowship hall. Shown above are Building Committee members: Walter Hines (pastor), Alton Milner, Shane Cook, Shannon Philley, Louise Blanton, Ann Philley, and Arlis Woods, Building Committee chairman. The 30'x40' brick structure will house kitchen, rest rooms, utility and storage rooms for the congregation. All labor has been volunteered by people of the immediate and surrounding communities. Estimated cost for the fellowship hall is \$20,000.

Lottery vote

(Continued from page 2)

Andy Morris, Ashland; Harvey Moss, Corinth; Joel Netherland, Yazoo City; Clem Nettles, Jayess; Mike Nipper, Grenada; John Pennebaker, New Albany; Barney Schoby, Natchez; Eloise Scott, Tupelo; Cecil Simmons, Maben; Miriam Simmons, Columbia; Gary Staples, Laurel; Johnny Stringer, Montrose; Joe Taylor, Waynesboro; Gus Townsend, Laurel; Robert Vince, Sandy Hook; M. L. Wadkins, Iuka; and William Wheeler, Belmont.

MC plans golf tourney for pastors

The first ever Mississippi College Pastors' Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, July 16-17, and Baptist pastors throughout the state are invited to participate.

The tournament will take place at the Live Oaks Golf Club just north of the Clinton campus and participants can either stay in one of the residence halls on campus or commute. Meals will be taken in the college cafeteria serviced by Morrison's, Inc.

The cost of the tournament for those staying on campus will be \$60 and includes meals, room, green fees, and golf carts. Participants staying on campus will have to provide their own bed linens, pillow, and towels.

Commuters will pay \$30, which will cover a banquet on Monday night and lunch on Tuesday, plus green fees and golf carts.

The tournament will be limited to the first 100 registrants. An alternate list will be maintained in case space becomes available.

Pastors can mail their registration fee to Pastors Golf Tournament, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058, or can call 925-3265 to obtain additional information.

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PROBE consultants train in Jackson

A total of 28 PROBE consultants were trained in Jackson in May. These leaders will be available to churches and associations to help determine new work and ministry opportunities throughout Mississippi. PROBES are surveys which discover pockets of people where ministries are needed or new congregations could be organized to begin churches. They utilize research and studies of the past and projections for the future of a community.

The Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provided the training event which was led by Bill Long, associate director for Region 1 of the Home Mission Board's Field Service

ing Department.

"Our department has a goal of conducting 15 PROBES per year in order to train the people, discover needs, and meet those needs," said Ray Grissett, director of the Cooperative Missions Department.

The associational missions development director and the church missions development director, in conjunction with the Brotherhood, WMU, and Sunday School director, can team up to assist in the PROBES. To schedule a PROBE, contact Grissett at the Cooperative Missions Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

The next PROBE in Mississippi is set for Aug. 2-3 in the Prentiss Association.

Clinton Joymakers sing at SBC

By Carl McIntire

Seventy-six senior adults, members of the Joymakers Choir of First Church, Clinton, sang for the Music Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

From 58 to 96 years of age, with the majority past 70, the choir had memorized a 20-minute concert and presented it under the direction of William Bacon, minister of music and accompanied by Mickey Landrum.

Among the numbers were several from a new musical especially composed for older adults by Irene Martin of Forest, Miss., entitled *The Doors of Life*. This was the premier performance of these numbers. She had provided machine copies before the entire work had gone to the printer. Ms. Martin was in the audience for this initial performance.

Organized seven years ago by Glenn Shows, then minister of activities of the church, the choir has presented concerts in a number of churches in Mississippi and on several trips into other states. It accepted an invitation to give a concert at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in

North Carolina one summer. At the recent state senior adult choir festival in Hattiesburg, the choir was recognized for a superior performance.

For the chartered bus trip to New Orleans, which included one night in a motel, the members paid much of their own expenses.

At the close of their New Orleans concert, the choir was given a standing ovation by the large crowd at First Church, New Orleans.

Carl McIntire is a member of the choir and a columnist for the Jackson Clarion-Ledger.

Right thing . . .

(Continued from page 3)

"All over this world 66 percent of the people do not even claim to be Christian, and 26 percent of the world has not even had a chance to hear the Gospel.

"I ask you one question: Did the Lord Jesus Christ die for all the world? Do you want to send a message to the villages of Africa, the cities of Asia? Or shall we simply send the message, 'There's no one to come?'"

The service marked the second time the mission board has held an appointment service during the convention's annual meeting. It was the third of six foreign missions appointment services scheduled for 1990. The 34 appointees join more than 3,700 missionaries serving in 116 countries.

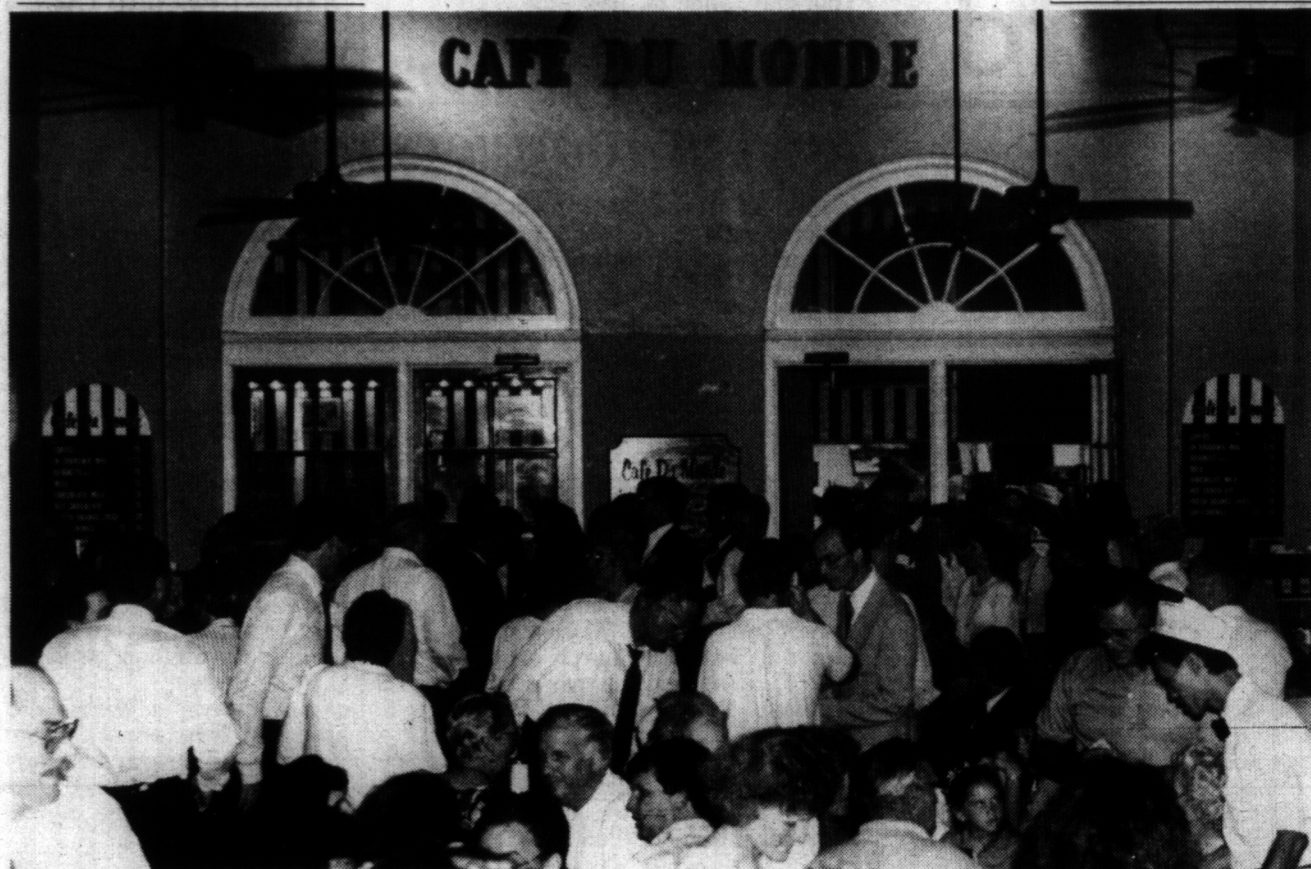
Mark Wingfield is on the staff of FMB.

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The celebration of the observation of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the "inerrancy" movement is shown above at the Cafe du Monde in New Orleans. The occasion took place on Wednesday evening following the session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Barry McCarty, convention parliamentarian, is the tallest person in the center. Across from him is Paige Patterson. To McCarty's left and slightly in front of him is Mrs. Paul Pressler. Also present but not identifiable was

Jerry Vines, convention president. Printed invitations to the event were given to a select group and were autographed by Pressler and Patterson. A Japanese family of tourists at the cafe is reported to have become upset with the proceedings and departed during the singing of "Victory in Jesus," leaving behind belongings including cameras. — Photo by Jim Watters, Northwest Baptist Witness.

Barry McCarty takes part in victory celebration

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Appearances were deceptive when Barry McCarty climbed up on a chair and called to order a victory celebration of Southern Baptist Convention conservatives, the SBC parliamentarian said.

"Order, order. I call this group to order," McCarty shouted above the noise in New Orleans' Cafe du Monde June 13, at the end of the second day of the SBC annual meeting. "After all, I am the parliamentarian."

Afterward, other Southern Baptists who witnessed the event expressed outrage that the convention's paid parliamentarian would participate in what appeared to be a partisan political function. McCarty told the Western Recorder newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention his participation was merely coincidental.

"I am under 24-hour-a-day call to the (SBC) president," said McCarty, a Church of Christ minister and president of Cincinnati Bible College. "I accompany him wherever he goes."

Of his participation in the conservatives' victory celebration, McCarty explained: "I was just passing by, waiting on an order of donuts. A gentlemen, whom I don't know, asked me to get their attention. He said he had a presentation to make."

The presentation was the gift of framed certificates of appreciation to Houston judge Paul Pressler and Dallas educator Paige Patterson, who met 20 years ago in that French Quarter cafe and planned the strategy to control the SBC. During the New Orleans meeting, their forces won the SBC presidency for the 12th straight year.

"I was not an invited guest," McCarty noted. "I was with the president (Jerry Vines), who was an invited guest."

"I had no official part in what was going on. The president gets parliamentary questions and has to do business, so I travel with him throughout the day."

Some Southern Baptists expressed their displeasure with McCarty and the conservatives, even during the celebration. "Shame, shame, shame," they shouted, before being drowned out by conservatives, who sang a verse of "Victory in Jesus."

At least one observer confronted McCarty and Pressler in the cafe with his interpretation of the events there.

"I said, 'You know what took place here, and it was inappropriate,'" reported Jay Robison, a messenger from Penile Baptist Church in Valley Station, Ky. "McCarty's participation

in such a celebration in a public restaurant was a breach of Christian ethics and integrity. The jubilant gloating by the participants was embarrassing, especially in front of non-Christians."

Robison's frustration continued the following day. He made at least four attempts to report the incident to fellow SBC messengers, seeking a point of personal privilege, but was not recognized twice and had his microphone cut off twice.

McCarty told the Recorder he does not believe he is partisan. "At the convention, I crossed back and forth over the lines of skirmish," he said.

"I can be seen with everyone from Roy Honeycutt to Adrian Rogers," Honeycutt is president of Southern Seminary in Louisville; Rogers is a former conservative SBC president.

McCarty has been the SBC parliamentarian since 1986. Last year, he was paid about \$14,500 for his services. Recently, he was hired by the executive committee of Southern Seminary's trustees. "I am looking forward to working with their trustees."

Marv Knox, former feature editor of Baptist Press, is editor of The Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Lottie Moon gifts increase, but miss goal

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists gave about \$80.2 million to the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which pays nearly half the cost of running the denomination's world mission program.

When financial books closed May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$80,197,870.78 to help finance mission work throughout the world. The amount represents a 1.79 percent in-

crease over 1988 receipts and is the highest total yet for the annual offering, which generally is given in local churches during December.

Even so, the total missed the \$81 million goal. The increase in 1989 over 1988 also failed to keep pace with the 4 to 5 percent inflation rate in the United States and even higher inflation rates in many countries where Southern Baptists missionaries live and work.

The last time the offering total reached or exceeded its goal was in 1981. Earlier projections based on a survey of various state Baptist conventions had indicated 1989 receipts would exceed the \$81 million goal by about \$300,000.

The actual 1989 tally amounted to about 99 percent of the goal. To reach the 1990 goal of \$86 million, Southern Baptists will need to increase their giving by about 7.2 percent this year.

Shown at recent ceremonies for the constitution of Ridgecrest Mission as Ridgecrest Church are Tommy Snyder, pastor of Tate Street Church, Corinth; Doug Farris, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Corinth; Nat Mayhall, recently retired director of missions, Alcorn Association.

Ridgecrest Mission, Corinth, became Ridgecrest Church on May 20. The constitution was marked by a ceremonial presentation of the deed to the land by mother church pastor Tommy Snyder of Tate Street Church, Corinth (Alcorn). Ridgecrest's 32 charter members, with other guests, attended a reception which followed messages delivered by the mission's first pastor Tommy Wilder, and the present pastor, Doug Farris. Ridgecrest is presently housed in a mobile chapel, but hopes to start its first unit building some time this summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Ruth's devotion to Naomi mirrors loving commitment

By Lannie Wilbourn
Ruth 1:1-22

"Is God at work in the world today?" is the question asked by believers and seekers after God. It is often asked in the negative tone, expecting a "No" answer.



Wilbourn

In his book *Against the Night*, Chuck Colson says, "An outbreak of crime, corruption, and chaos has resulted from the virulent breakup of the American family. Harvard professors... have traced the close connection between crime and the lack of proper moral training in the home." The book of Ruth begins with a normal family, living in a godless time. It becomes the story of a family broken by death and struggling, with God at work in their brokenness.

The setting of Ruth was the time after the death of Joshua, and before Samuel became the leader of Israel. "The judges," are the leaders mentioned in the book of Judges. It was a chaotic time when "Israel had no king;

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everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 17:6, NIV). Morals and family life broke down during that time. Moab was southeast across the Dead Sea from Judah, the southernmost tribe of Israel. Elimelech moved his family, and they became resident aliens in Moab. The name in ancient times reflected the character or personality of the individual. Elimelech, (God is king), was a devout man married to Naomi, (pleasant; delightful), a gracious woman. He was from an old, established family. Their oldest son, Mahlon, (sick; to be weak), married Ruth, (friendship), but didn't live long, due to bad health. Kilion, (failing; pining), who was not pleasant company, married Orpah, (firmness of neck; stiff-necked), who wasn't pleasant company either. He died, too. There were three widows.

There were few jobs for women in that day. Marriage was the one option offering economic

and social stability. Naomi felt she had to find husbands for Ruth and Orpah. She recognized God's loyalty and love in the provision of food for his people. So, the three poverty-stricken widows began the journey to Judah. Naomi pleaded with Ruth and Orpah to go back to their mother's homes. In that polygamous society their mothers likely had charge of the women's quarters where they could live. Also, husbands would be easier to find in Moab.

Naomi's plea was for the Lord to show "kindness" to them as they had done with the dead and with Naomi. She used the personal name of the God of Israel, "Yahweh." In those circumstances, that was a strong sign of Naomi's faith. Her prayer was for God's "kindness," also rendered in the Old Testament as loving-kindness, sometimes as loyalty, and other times as love. All are characteristic of God. She prayed that he would deal with the daughters-in-law according to her character. All of us can safely pray the same way.

One of the great lessons we can learn from this painful parting is to get in touch with and give proper expression to our feelings. Rebuilding emotionally begins after we have

expressed our feelings honestly. Also, recognize that our deepest feelings and fears are not hidden from God. Naomi showed this by setting her bitterness with her life against the faithfulness of God.

Ruth showed her love by remaining as a daughter to Naomi. Her answer to Naomi is a classic expression of faithfulness, loving commitment, and determination. Ruth promised to share Naomi's future. Is it any wonder that this passage is a favorite reading at weddings?

Ruth's decision had spiritual implications also. Naomi's God would be her God. Naomi's name for God in verse 20, "The Almighty," is from the Hebrew word "Shaddai." In Genesis 17:1; 43:14; and 49:25, "Shaddai" is used for God who (1) transforms helplessness into blessing; (2) gives protection in uncertainty; and (3) turns profit from problems.

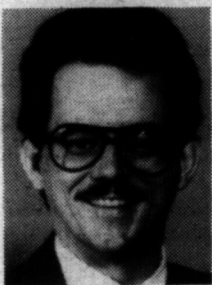
Naomi believed God was at work in his world. God's loyalty was imaged by Naomi and Ruth. That is the way faith works in real life when God is at work in his world where our families live. What "image" does your family mirror?

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

What is your top priority?

By Bob Rogers
Proverbs 4:1-13

What is your top priority? During the Russian Revolution, some Russian clergymen demonstrated that their priorities were mixed up. As the country was being swept with violent change, they met to debate the hot issue of the number and placement of buttons on their clerical robes! Proverbs 4:1-13 deals with the issue of proper priorities for our lives.



Rogers

In verse 1 the writer says, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father." In Hebrew, "children" is the plural form of son, which can be translated either as son or as children. The first eight chapters of Proverbs contain at least 15 references to "my son" or "my sons." Some interpreters take this as a master teacher who is instructing his students, whom he calls

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"sons." However, it seems more natural to understand this as advice from a father to his own family, especially since he is passing along what he learned from his own father and mother, according to verse 3.

What is it that the father urges his family to hear? What did he learn from past generations that he eagerly desires to pass on? The answer begins in verse 5: "Get wisdom, get understanding." When the Bible speaks of wisdom, it refers to more than intelligence or common sense; it means godliness. Proverbs 1:7 says wisdom is based on reverence for the Lord. So the father encourages his family to do much more than get an education; he encourages them to trust the Lord. As Earl Kelly has said, "Heaven will be made up of the regenerated, not the educated."

Verse 7 continues on this theme, but the verse is difficult to translate. Literally, the Hebrew says, "First wisdom, get wisdom." Some

translators see this as meaning that the first step in obtaining wisdom is having a desire to acquire wisdom. In other words, you have to really want it to get it. Other translators render it as the New International Version does: "Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom." This second translation fits more smoothly into the emphasis here on the importance of wisdom. Remembering that biblical wisdom is fear of the Lord, verse 7 is similar in meaning to Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the kingdom of God.

Wisdom results in rewards: protection (v. 6), honor (v. 8), glory (v. 9), and long life (v. 10). These are good reasons in themselves to seek godly wisdom, but the greatest reason is because "she (wisdom) is thy life" (v. 13). Verse 11 says wisdom leads to the "right paths," and verse 12 says that it keeps us from stumbling. When our minds and hearts are focused on God's will, we will get wisdom, and that wisdom is our very life.

Tony Campolo, in his book, *Who Switched the Price Tags?*, tells us of one night when his

children were very small, and his wife called him into their bedroom. She pointed to them stretched out in the beds with angelic expressions on their faces. Then she whispered, "Look long and hard, Tony, because they'll never be like that again." To be wise Christians, we must look long and hard at the wonder of God's creation and the amazing grace he provides through Jesus Christ. To be wise Christians, we must not swallow someone else's idea of truth; but look long and hard into God's Word and find his will under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Questions to consider:

1. On what do you spend the greatest amount of time and money? Does this indicate that you are giving priority to seeking godly wisdom?
2. What wisdom have you learned from your family? Can you share wise sayings from your mother and father?
3. How can wisdom result in the rewards found in verses 6, 8, 9, and 10?
4. What pitfalls in life will be avoided when we seek God's wisdom?

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Treat all justly, according to law of love

By Jim Smith
James 2:1-13

It is human nature to make judgments about people on the basis of how our relationship with that person will affect us. We always want to know how we will benefit from that relationship and/or how much it will "cost" us to be involved in that relationship.



Smith

Today's advertising industry has capitalized on this "sinful" element of our human nature to further enhance our desire to ask first, "What's in it for me?" rather than, "What can I do to minister to this person in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?" James addressed this age-old question of the "respect of persons" — the sin of giving preference to someone whose status may be of benefit to us, as opposed to giving equal treatment to everyone. We as Christians must learn to respond out of the love of Christ and not for self gain.

Our country was birthed out of the prejudice

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that ruled Europe at the close of the Middle Ages. Men were often accepted or rejected upon the basis of their religious practice, financial status, race or national origin, and political affinity. The opening words of the second section of *The Declaration of Independence* show the desire of the founding fathers to free men from the oppression of prejudice. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

By looking at the outward appearance of man, we totally neglect the inward heart and soul of the man. Do not allow yourself to be deceived into making a decision to accept or reject someone solely on the basis of outward appearance. Jesus always looked to the heart of men to make his evaluation. One can not know the heart of anyone by looking at their outward appearance. Appearances deceive, and persons as well as appearances can change in

the hands of a loving God.

Jesus loves the poor and the rich, white and black, the whole and the infirm; he died for all without making any distinction. When we show partiality to people on any basis, we do not show the love of God. We sin against Jesus and dishonor the name by which we are called.

When we as Christians let our sinful natural tendencies get the upper hand, Christ is not in control of our lives. We must strive to turn complete control of our lives, thoughts, speech and actions over to Jesus. I remember how shocked I was when I heard a dear, sweet lady who was a charter member of a church I attended, comment on a couple I had been encouraging to unite with the church. She said, "You know, Brother Jim, we just really don't want that kind of people in our church." When we begin to exclude "that kind of people", whoever they are, then our churches have ceased to be Christ's church. Christ died to save everyone who calls upon his name, regardless of our criteria for acceptance.

When we come to worship God it is a high and holy time. We must lay aside everything that may separate us from God, or we can not come before him in worship. Jesus said "Therefore

if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matt. 5:23-24, KJV). We must have a right relationship with men before we can have a right relationship with a holy God.

The Old Testament in Lev. 19:18 tells us we should not make judgments on the basis of anything but love, "... thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: ..." (KJV). The violation of the law of love is as serious as any other sin, although we like to think differently. But I find no indication in God's Word that one sin is more acceptable to God than any other. I believe the indication is that the person who judges rather than loves shall be judged without mercy.

We must ask ourselves, what is my attitude of acceptance? Is my attitude based upon the love of God for all mankind, or have I sinned in the "respect" of person? You may need to make an attitude adjustment to reflect the love God has shown you through his Son Jesus, Christ.

Jim Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.



Women in Ministry Officers — Southern Baptist Women in Ministry officers, elected during the organization's June 9-10 annual meeting, are (from left) Nancy Campbell, treasurer, a chaplain in training at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas; Cindy Johnson, recorder, minister at large at First Church, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Md.; Sheila Black, membership, church and community ministries in Mecklenburg Association, Charlotte, N.C.; Cheryl Collins, vice president, minister of youth at McLean Church, McLean, Va.; Carolyn Cole Bucy, president, minister to youth at Lake Shore Church, Waco, Texas; and Pam Tanner, program chair, minister of music and worship at William Trace Church, Sugar Land, Texas. (BC photo by Jim Veneman)

Women in Ministry to merge with Center

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptist Women in Ministry members approved constitutional revisions that will allow their organization to merge with the Center for Women in Ministry, based in Louisville, Ky.

Approval of the revisions — as well as worship experiences and workshops around the theme "Welcoming the Stranger... Sojourners in the Fellowship of God" — took place during SBWIM's eighth annual meeting June 9 and 10 in New Orleans.

As SBWIM has changed and grown through the years, it has seen a need for more structure, said Betty McGary, outgoing president.

In addition to providing for the SBWIM-CWIM merger, the changes were designed to provide for more membership involvement on the steering committee; more continuity of leadership; increased visibility and influence of the organization; and greater clarity or consistency of language.

Ministers' wives urged to 'inherit blessing'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Ministers' wives in New Orleans June 12 were encouraged Tuesday to "inherit the blessing."

Addressing the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon, Shirley Dobson told the 1,027 women, "Many of you think the burden you're carrying is too heavy, but what you are doing has eternal significance."

"While you're out doing the Lord's work, don't neglect your own families," said the wife of James Dobson, family psychologist. She added mothers should fervently and consistently pray for their children, arrange quality time to spend with them, and create family traditions that give "a sense of identity and uniqueness to a family."

"Whether we like it or not, we are the thermostats of our homes. We determine the temperature," continued Dobson, a member of the board of directors for Focus on the Family, a non-profit radio program providing counseling and advice for Christian families. "The woman's responsibility in the home is to provide a sense of warmth, beauty, and relaxation."

"I believe we are in a civil war of

values right now. We must gear up the foundation of our family... Who is going to provide that if we don't as mothers?"

Ministers' wives should remember the task to which God has called them — being a part of their husbands' ministries and providing a warm atmosphere at home, she reminded.

In other action, 1990 SBWIM President Lynda Estep passed the gavel to Carole Hughes, wife of John E. Hughes, pastor of First Church, Independence, Mo. Other 1991 officers are Margaret Carter, wife of Charles Q. Carter, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ga., vice president; Margaret Murchison, wife of Roger Murchison, minister at First Church, Augusta, Ga., secretary-treasurer; and June Baggett, wife of Hudson D. Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, Birmingham, corresponding secretary.

I wanted to throw in a comment or two, but rude interruptions were never my way, so I waited politely until he was through, then forgot what I wanted to say. — Suzanne Douglass, Look.

Compassion, not demand reaches people, DOMs told

By Mark Wingfield

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — More unchurched people will be reached by the compassion of cooperating churches than by demanding a strict loyalty to the Bible, an associational director of missions told his peers in their two-day annual meeting.

Russell Bennett of Louisville, Ky., made that statement in his president's address to the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions in Metairie, La., preceding the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I don't think people go to hell because of brothels and gambling dens," said Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association. "They go to hell because Christians don't love."

"People seldom enter the kingdom

of God because of some eloquent speaker, but because some loving soul has cared for them. We do not need high pressure preaching to increase guilt so that people are immersed again and again. Rather we need churches that extend love to outsiders."

Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, Ala., echoed that theme by encouraging directors of missions not to become so caught up in doing good that they forget to do the greatest good.

"The greatest enemy most of us confront in doing the best is not doing the worst; it's doing good. Our greatest enemy is doing good but

secondary things," he said. "God forbid we go down in history as the denomination that fought over who believed the Bible while the world went to hell."

Jerry Clower, a star of the Grand Ole Opry and Southern Baptist layman, used humor to address issues in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight.

"Watch my lips: I do not worship the Bible," Clower declared. "I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ when I was 13 years of age. I am in love with and worship Jesus."

"Let's not take our focus off Jesus. Folks are going to die and go to hell while we decide who believes the Bible."

Wingfield writes for HMB.

HMB highlights starting churches

By Bob Stanley

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A top Southern Baptist Mission Board official and four of its most successful church planters challenged Southern Baptists June 12 to get serious about winning America for Christ.

Charles L. Chaney, vice-president for extension, said the board is ahead of the pace needed to meet its goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000. Last year it started new churches at the rate of three and a half churches everyday, he noted.

But he urged the 12,000 messengers at the home missions emphasis to come back next year and be able to say, "We're building four a day."

Chaney listed three reasons why he asked participants at the SBC session to commit themselves anew to higher levels of church-starting:

— "Because of our constant obligation to the lost." Some have estimated that as many as 170 million Americans do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior, he said. This means that only four other nations in the world have greater non-Christian populations than this country, he said.

— "Because of the current opportunity we have in this nation." For the first time, one denomination has the numerical strength and ethnic diversity to reach the nation for Christ, he said, "and that's Southern Baptists." With congregations encompassing 97 native groups and 101 languages, including 1,300 black churches, Chaney said, "we can address this whole nation."

— "Because of our commitment to the Great Commission." Chaney traced the development of churches as the Holy Spirit led disciples in the early church, noting that wherever the disciples went they made other disciples and planted churches.

At the close of the service, messengers willing to commit to leading their churches to start new congregations were asked to check a card on the back of the program and give it to home missionaries standing by the exits.

Preceding Chaney's appeal, four other church planters from Florida, New England, Louisiana and California told how they are helping to start new congregations. They are Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif.; G. Franklin Beam, church planter strategist for the South Florida region, Sunrise; Ignatius

Meimaris, missionary and language missions director for the Baptist Convention of New England, Northborough, Mass.; and Kenneth Weathersby, pastor of Douglas Avenue Church, Baton Rouge, La.

At the beginning of the service, board President Larry Lewis presented its first annual plaque to the church that has baptized the most

people in the past year. It went to Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Presenting the plaque, Lewis noted that North Phoenix has led the convention in baptisms during seven of the 10 years in the 1980s: 1981, '82, '83, '87, '88 and '89. In 10 years, the church has baptized more than 11,400 people.

Bob Stanley is on the staff of FMB.

Candidates address Hispanics

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's two principal presidential candidates offered Hispanic Baptist ministers at their annual fellowship meeting the chance either to "make complete the course correction" or "turn attention away from an internal power struggle" in the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, addressed the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference in New Orleans, June 10-11.

Other speakers challenged the Hispanic ministers to "become an integral part of Southern Baptist life" and accept the responsibility to evangelize unchurched Hispanics.

Chapman underscored his belief in the "inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God," and he expressed his desire to "enlarge the tent" to include all Southern Baptists who share his convictions on the inspiration and authority of the Bible. "I want to encompass all Southern Baptists who believe in our perpetuation of allegiance to God's perfect Word," he said.

Vestal said the 11-year controversy within the SBC has diverted Southern Baptists' attention from their need to evangelize the United States' growing ethnic population. "While we as a denomination have been embroiled in an internal struggle, America has been changing, and we are losing touch with the character and nature of our country," he said.

Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista in Fresno, Calif., and president of the conference, encouraged

the Hispanic ministers to remain faithful in running toward the goal of equal rights, respect and responsibility within the Southern Baptist Convention.

The fellowship elected Yamile Fernandez, pastor of Community Church in Santa Ana, Calif., as president. Other officers are: first vice president, Ray Carbajal, associational director of ethnic missions in Miami; second vice president, Lionel Reyes, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispano Americana in New Orleans; and Sotelo, secretary-treasurer.

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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